Gerry's Daily Blog Archives - April 2025

April 30, 2025

A Substantial U.S. Gold Consignment to Consider

and

Feel Free to Issue Check Payments to Maine Office

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on the final day of April 2025. Thank you for returning for another edition.

In just 48 hours, the Maine transition will be underway. Once again, a reminder that the GFRC office is closed from May 2 through May 4. We will reopen the GFRC business on Monday May 5th.

Tuesday brought a second office inventory packing session with all types of inventory and hold lots being nicely organized and accounted for. There is regular price list inventory, the Session 3 Auction Sale inventory coupled with regular layaways and also, the extended payment auction lots. Yes, there will be no coin left behind in Florida as that would be quite the pity.

Today sees me driving to Sarasota Porsche to drop in on my Sales Ambassador Josh, a friendly individual who does not respond to emails. Yes, the Porsche brand is quite exclusive, but one would expect some basic communications courtesy even thought not purchasing a 911 level vehicle. Key is mapping out how we will communicate after our arrival back to Maine. Between a host of doctor and dentist appointments the first week back coupled with the Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale, starting May 10th, the Fortins will be unable to return to Florida until after the auction sale administration workload is completed. The current plan is to fly to Sarasota and drive the 718 Boxster back to Maine via a multi-day journey through western VA and PA mountains and hillsides, followed by heading north into eastern NY and traversing the scenic White Mountains in northern New England. Once again, the GFRC office will be closed for the length of this Porsche inspired holiday to celebrate our 45th anniversary. Of course, this plan assumes that the car is processed through U.S. Customs in a fairly expedient manner. Life is always full of uncertainties but basic planning is essential.

Let's move forward with today's important consignment announcement.

A Substantial U.S. Gold Consignment to Consider

Like clockwork, USPS Express Priority Mail delivered a substantial U.S. gold consignment yesterday. The lot was promptly loaded into the COIN system with a pricing proposal completed just in time for 5:00 PM Happy Hour. Once concluding dinner, an email check revealed that our client had agreed to my proposed pricing numbers. Therefore, we are in a position to quote prices today for those that wish to secure first shot. Photography is also on today's agenda as the bright Florida sun is so conducive for high contrast imagery.

As always, clicking on the below image will provide access to a higher resolution version portrayal.

The consignment opens with a very popular 1911-D Strong D $2.5 Indian graded PCGS AU55 and assigned a GFRC-Choice quality rating. The 1834 Plain 4 Classic Head $5 piece adds more diversity as do the 1854 and 1870 $3 Indian Princess pieces. The latter is a rare $3 gold date and the first example handled by GFRC. This consignment is replete with $10 gold including not one but two 1892-CC AU pieces, both with CAC approval.

Since being in and out of the office today, I will respond to your pricing inquiries when possible, but definitely after 3:00 PM. The completion of transactions will take place from the Maine office. Thank you for considering these lots.

Quality U.S. Collector Gold in Search of a New Home

Feel Free to Issue Check Payments to Maine Office

The check payment mailing transition is now underway. All payments must be mailed to the Raymond, Maine office address which has been updated on the GFRC website and also on my email signature line. The Raymond address is....

GFRC, 225 Valley Road, Raymond, Maine 04071-6163

Wrapping Up The Blog

So ends another Daily Blog edition. I hope that the visit was enjoyable.

Be well!

April 29, 2025

A Ho-Hum Blog Edition

Greetings on a Tuesday morning and welcome to another Daily Blog edition. Thank you for returning to these ongoing ramblings.

What can I possibly ramble about today as there is a lack of predefined content? That is a difficult question as I sit at the laptop in search of inspiration. We've discussed gold almost to the point of exhaustion. The 718 Boxster will chart its own journey to Sarasota Porsche regardless of my cheer leading. Finally, the GFRC numismatic platform continues to perform well with a wide ranging customer base. April sales have been strong and above forecast without attending the Central States show.

I was on the phone with Rich Hundertmark yesterday and he noted that my desire to be back in Maine did not go unnoticed when reading the Blog. This is quite true as I've already made the mental shift towards May's property cleanup followed by Dave Wilkinson's excavator arrival in early June. The plan is to cut that bisecting trail to increase the amount of walking and trail riding options in the park. A Polaris XP Kinetic Ranger UTV will be one of the first major purchases once back home. An electric UTV will fall into the sustainability realm along with being a fun vehicle for touring the back acreage trails when both Matt and Renee's family visit in early July. I've learned that urban dwellers don't like bugs, especially wood ticks. This results in a lack of desire, or is it fear, for utilizing the walking trails on a cool Maine morning. A battery powered UTV may help that situation and then it might not. The younger generations have become so accustomed to living in a cellphone or laptop digital world, within an urban setting, that hanging out in the woods with only one's senses for stimulation might just be too foreign of an adventure. All I can do is provide the trails and the exploration opportunity. The rest will be up to our family members to decide on a course of action. Regardless, I will be up early each morning walking the trails after the day's Daily Blog composition as my senses enjoy the sound of crunching footsteps on stone paths or hearing the crows calling out. Unfortunately, the background road noise is inescapable as the 23 acre lot is position on a heavy traveled road during the morning commuting hours.

Monday afternoon brought a successful effort towards organizing the various GFRC inventory items into distinct packing groups for transport. My motto is always "no coin being left behind" when preparing to move the office from one part of the country to the other. All layaway orders were organized along with extended payment auctions lots. Of course, there will be new orders shippable from the Maine office though I am doing by best to issue as many ship ahead orders as possible through Wednesday.

Today brings the arrival of a major U.S. gold shipment as the final consigned lot while in Venice.

There you have it.... A Ho-Hum blog edition without relying on Seth Godin or Kitco gold news for content. Yes, I am looking forward to being back in Maine and on the "land" with dirt and tractor grease on my hands. Let's not forget the smell of diesel fuel too!

Thank you again for the visit. Some days bring stimulating content while others bring a honest conversation between us.

Be well!

April 28, 2025

GFRC Mailing Address Change to Raymond Maine Office

Port of Jacksonville Vessel Arrivals

and

New Orleans Collection - Special Insights from the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog as the final week in the Venice Florida office arrives. Thank you for the visit.

Yes, it is time to ramp down the GFRC Venice office as my mindset quickly shifts towards returning to a rural Maine lifestyle. For example, last evening was spent studying the different brands of gas-powered head units that will drive a string trimmer, brush cutter blade, and paddle sweeper. When the research was completed, a decision was made to go with the Echo brand and the PAS2620 power head. Why not electric? So far, I've purchased several battery powered outdoor power tools and was disappointed each time in the build quality and operating performance. These will be junked upon my return as I plan to stick with commercial grade gas-powered tools given the size of the Maine property and its maintenance requirements.

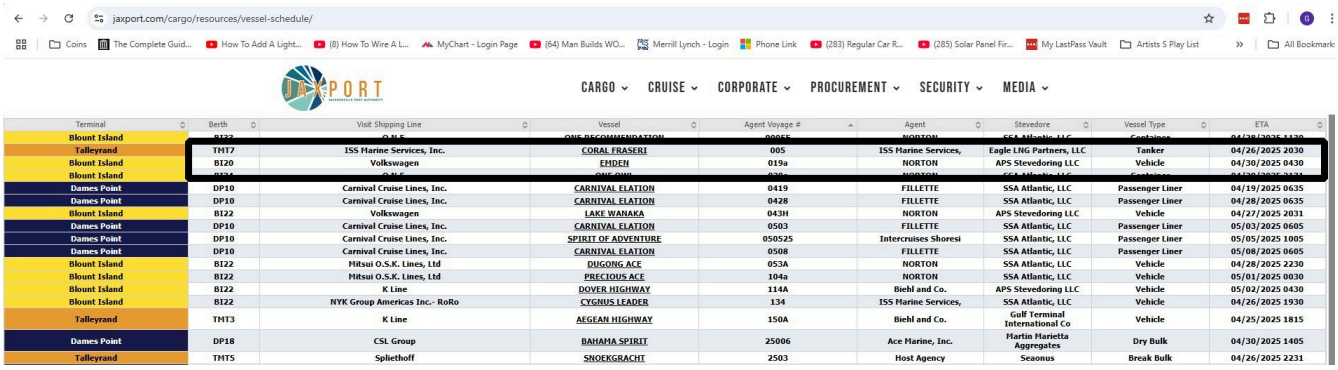
Again, as a reminder, the GFRC office will be closed from May 2 through May 4, and will reopen in Maine at some point on Monday May 5. I have a busy appointment week once back home and doubt that there will be much in terms of new coin postings other than marketing the Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale that begins on May 10th.

It was decided on Sunday to change the website mailing address to the Maine office. Please hold back mailing payment checks to the Maine office until Wednesday. Thank you.

Port of Jacksonville Vessel Arrivals

For giggles on Sunday, I googled the Port of Jacksonville Florida website to see if I could locate a vessel arrival schedule at the harbor. Sure enough, I was able to confirm that the "Emden", a Volkswagen owned vessel will be arriving at 4:30 AM on Wednesday carrying our new 718 Boxster GTS 4.0 vehicle. Isn't ironic that the ship will be docking just several days prior to our Maine departure?

Here is a screen capture from the Port of Jacksonville website with the "Emden" arrival among those from Carnival Cruise Lines. Clicking on the below image provides access to a higher resolution version.



Terminal	Berth	Visit Shipping Line	Vessel	Agent Voyage #	Agent	Stevedore	Vessel Type	ETA
Blount Island	BI22	ONE RECOMMENDATION	000SE		NORTON	SSA Atlantic, LLC	Container	04/28/2025 1130
Talleyrand	TMT7	ISS Marine Services, Inc.	CORAL FRASERI	005	ISS Marine Services,	Eagle LNG Partners, LLC	Tanker	04/26/2025 2030
Blount Island	BI20	Volkswagen	EMDEN	019a	NORTON	APS Stevedoring LLC	Vehicle	04/30/2025 0430
Blount Island	BI24	ONE OWL	029a		NORTON	SSA Atlantic, LLC	Container	04/30/2025 2131
Dames Point	DP10	Carnival Cruise Lines, Inc.	CARNIVAL ELATION	0419	FILLETTE	SSA Atlantic, LLC	Passenger Liner	04/19/2025 0635
Dames Point	DP10	Carnival Cruise Lines, Inc.	CARNIVAL ELATION	0428	FILLETTE	SSA Atlantic, LLC	Passenger Liner	04/28/2025 0635
Blount Island	BI22	Volkswagen	LAKE WANAKA	043H	NORTON	APS Stevedoring LLC	Vehicle	04/27/2025 2031
Dames Point	DP10	Carnival Cruise Lines, Inc.	CARNIVAL ELATION	0503	FILLETTE	SSA Atlantic, LLC	Passenger Liner	05/03/2025 0605
Dames Point	DP10	Carnival Cruise Lines, Inc.	SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE	050525	Intercruises Shoresi	SSA Atlantic, LLC	Passenger Liner	05/05/2025 1005
Dames Point	DP10	Carnival Cruise Lines, Inc.	CARNIVAL ELATION	0508	FILLETTE	SSA Atlantic, LLC	Passenger Liner	05/08/2025 0605
Blount Island	BI22	Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd	DUGONG ACE	053A	NORTON	SSA Atlantic, LLC	Vehicle	04/28/2025 2230
Blount Island	BI22	Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd	PRECIOUS ACE	104a	NORTON	SSA Atlantic, LLC	Vehicle	05/01/2025 0030
Blount Island	BI22	K Line	DOVER HIGHWAY	114A	Biehl and Co.	APS Stevedoring LLC	Vehicle	05/02/2025 0430
Blount Island	BI22	NYK Group Americas Inc.- RoRo	CYGNUS LEADER	134	ISS Marine Services,	SSA Atlantic, LLC	Vehicle	04/26/2025 1930
Talleyrand	TMT3	K Line	AEGEAN HIGHWAY	150A	Biehl and Co.	Gulf Terminal International Co	Vehicle	04/25/2025 1815
Dames Point	DP18	CSL Group	BAHAMA SPIRIT	25006	Ace Marine, Inc.	Martin Marietta Aggregates	Dry Bulk	04/30/2025 1405
Talleyrand	TMT5	Spliethoff	SNOEKGRACHT	2503	Host Agency	Seaonus	Break Bulk	04/26/2025 2231

How long will it take for our new Porsche to be unloaded and to clear U.S. customs? This is an unknown, especially with the Trump tariff situation. I've been scanning the Porsche website for new 718 Boxster GTS 4.0 listings throughout the United States with roughly a $10,000 increase in offer prices being noted during the past 45 days. .

Back in Germany, it took one month for the car to be loaded onto the Emden sea going transport. Once the Boxster is released, it will be transported from Jacksonville to Sarasota Porsche with the dealership requiring two days to unwrap the car and readying the vehicle to be sold. Unfortunately, it is *close but no cigar as they say*....

There is presently a Plan A and a Plan B for closing out the purchase and moving the 718 Boxster to our Maine home. Please stay current with the Daily Blog to learn how this story ultimately ends...

New Orleans Collection - Special Insights from the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport

Sunday's 8:00 AM special meeting with a GFRC client took place on schedule with three lots from the Connoisseur's Session 1 Auction Sale being transferred. The New Orleans Collection took possession of three serious "O-Mint" lots from that session including the finest known 1852-O dime. Later in the morning, a touching email arrived into my Inbox.

Good morning all from Sarasota-Bradenton airport gate B6,

My addition to Gerry's blog is not meant to become any regular occurring event, but a therapeutic recording of recent events that we all will inevitably face as life certainly has its interesting twists and turns. This past week found us in Gerry's winter backyard -Venice Beach, FL. For those who are not familiar with the area, Venice is known by many as a winter retreat for snow birds and 'God's waiting room' by others as many retirees settle here for year-round warm southern Florida temperatures. My wife's favorite aunt could be included in both categories as she was raised in Connecticut, lived in New York, and retired to Florida. We attended her memorial service this past weekend - truly an experience as unique as she.

Sarasota Bay has a 20-acre area designated as a site for deposition of cremains. Thousands before her have taken advantage of this burial at sea over the decades since its inception. We boarded a Yacht large enough for the 20 of us and had a lovely serene service right before sunset on Friday afternoon, including adult beverages. The captain led us through a touching ritual as we deposited her ashes along with long stem red roses and rose petals. After this moving tribute concluded, we enjoyed the scenery of multi-million dollar homes that lined the water. Several still had devastating evidence of nature's fury from last year's gulf hurricane season. Despite the shoreline's scars, there's certainly no doubt that life is good for many in Florida. Our visit concluded with a rendezvous for lot pickup from Gerry's auction of his and Aaron's seated coins. Finally, as I sit in the airport awaiting our flight back to Louisiana, I am reminded that we are but stewards of the coins we collect. Just as we have taken care of these precious items for the next generation, it's important to remember to take care of your family by having a well-outlined exit strategy. Once again I say there could be nothing worse than seeing the fruits of your collecting labor not get their full value for your heirs. Thanks to Gerry for being transparent and a straight shooter.

Happy collecting, The New Orleans Collection.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today's primary task is to clear out a substantial amount of shipping followed by responding to many orders for the Poor Man's Collection offerings. Afterwards, I will slowly start to prepare GFRC inventory for the Maine transition.

Tomorrow brings the arrival of a substantial United States gold consignment along with some bullion gold to be added to the Fortin holdings. Working through the photography process, under bright Florida sunshine, will be the next priority prior to pretty much winding down office activities. I will be keeping up with orders with the final shipping day being on Wednesday.

Thank you, as always, for visiting and staying current with GFRC happenings.

Be well!

April 27, 2025

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale is Two Weeks Away

Printable Auction Lot Guides

and

Please Hold Mailing GFRC Check Payments Until Wednesday

Greetings on a Sunday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for returning for another round of GFRC updates and regular ramblings.

A portion of this edition is being prepared on Saturday evening due to a special 8:00 AM meeting with a GFRC client. Yes, GFRC works seven days a week to meet the needs of our community. Therefore, I'm in the office after Saturday dinner preparing useful content concerning the forthcoming Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale that arrives in just two weeks. To aid all potential bidders, printable bidders guides have been assembled for both the Gerry Fortin and Newtown Collections lots. At GFRC, we never stop being creative in terms of the marketing power of the Daily Blog.

I'm certainly looking forward to being back in Maine on a temperature basis. Already, the daytime temperatures here in Venice are just too warm for me. I'd much rather be working outdoors when it is 55F to 60F than dealing with mid-80s. Diane, on the other hand, is just the opposite which makes for differing opinions on living locations. So far, the time in Maine versus thee time in Florida is working though the April and May transition months bring their temperature adjustments.

By this time next week, the Fortins will be well on their way up the I-95 corridor towards our annual relocation. Once back home, there are a host of appointments to work through along with property spring clean-up which I look forward too. Unfortunately, May brings black fly season and the need to wear head nets on calm days. There is nothing like a stiff breeze to keep the black flies away from your head.

Finally, the Poor Man's Collection consignment sale is moving along nicely with the majority of the lots being posted to the 30 Day Price List. At GFRC, we just keep moving the ball forward and take pride in helping clients with their buying and selling needs.

Let's move into numismatics....

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale is Two Weeks Away

It is difficult to believe but the final Session 3 Auction Sale event is now less than two weeks away. I'm quite pleased with how the first two session have gone with substantial sell through rates for both collections. Can we hold this momentum through Session 3? I'm certainly optimistic and will work with collectors for extended payment terms as done with the first two session. Successful bidders have been paying

down their extended layaways on schedule. Case in point is this morning's 8:00 meeting here in Venice to hand-off three Session 1 lots to a client visiting the area. A personal hand-off is much preferred to placing rare and irreplaceable coins in the USPS transport system.

Following are the official bidder's guides for the balance of the Gerry Fortin and Newtown Liberty Seated collections. Simply click on either image to download a PDF version that can be saved on your hard drive and which can also be printed for reference when contemplating your Session 3 bids.

GFRC Online Auctions
May 10 - May 17, 2025
www.seateddimevarieties.com/auction

Gerry Fortin Liberty Seated Dime Collection - Session 3
Lots and Reserved Prices

Date	MM	Variety	TPG	Grade	CAC	Cert #	Reserved Price
1837		No Stars, Small Date	PCGS	65	CAC	21314594	12500
1849	O		PCGS	64	CAC	05625131	19000
1850	O		NGC	MS67 Star		1748227002	27500
1851	O		PCGS	62		51066606	13500
1856	S		PCGS	63+	CAC	25346849	17500
1858	O		PCGS	65	CAC	3069573	10000
1859	S		PCGS	55		3523603	16000
1861		Type 2 Obverse	PCGS	65	CAC	11475261	1400
1861	S		PCGS	62	CAC	60159874	17500
1865	S		PCGS	63	CAC	4580332	17500
1866			PCGS	66	CAC	27382710	12500
1869	S		PCGS	67	CAC	4152091	26000
1871	S		PCGS	65+	CAC	06863865	16500
1873	S	With Arrows	PCGS	64	CAC	14915765	4500
1875	CC	Below Wreath	PCGS	65	CAC	12013956	4500
1875	S	In Wreath	PCGS	65	CAC	50119580	3000
1876	S	Type 1 Reverse	PCGS	66	CAC	12177285	3250
1876	CC	Type 2 Reverse	PCGS	64	CAC	03190357	3250
1877	CC	Type 2 Reverse	PCGS	66	CAC	13534519	4750
1877	S		PCGS	65	CAC	14273114	8250
1879			PCGS	66	CAC	04851829	1450
1881			PCGS	66+	CAC	82920688	5000
1882			PCGS	67+	CAC	40680316	3750
1883			PCGS	67	CAC	44364205	3000
1884			PCGS	66	CAC	50193527	1500
1884	S		PCGS	64	CAC	09960659	2250
1885			PCGS	67+	CAC	42641233	5500
1885	S		PCGS	65	CAC	51066607	39500
1886			PCGS	66	CAC	21776762	1250
1886	S		PCGS	67	CAC	25679812	8750
1887			PCGS	66	CAC	50111478	1250
1887	S		PCGS	65	CAC	21552355	1100
1888	S		PCGS	66	CAC	05911114	5500
1888			PCGS	66	Gold	40049485	6850
1889			PCGS	67	CAC	25215163	4500
1889	S		PCGS	64	CAC	50014924	1400
1890			PCGS	66	CAC	05931338	1450
1890	S		PCGS	65	CAC	12824073	1750
1891			PCGS	66	CAC	38156413	1100
1891	O		PCGS	66	CAC	37380978	2750
1891	S		PCGS	66	CAC	5801959	2500

GFRC Online Auctions
May 10 - May 17, 2025
www.seateddimevarieties.com/auction

Newtown Liberty Seated Half Dollar Collection - Session 3
Lots and Reserved Prices

Date	MM	Variety	TPG	Grade	CAC	Cert #	Reserved Price
1855	S	With Arrows	PCGS	58	CAC	19473955	18500
1869			PCGS	64	CAC	15386454	5500
1869	S		PCGS	55	CAC	21018831	950
1870			PCGS	65+	CAC	50205117	12500
1870	S		PCGS	62	CAC	33054769	4500
1871			PCGS	63	CAC	4761963	2000
1871	CC		PCGS	55	CAC	90069609	15000
1871	S		PCGS	64	CAC	36683754	4250
1872			PCGS	65+	CAC	81108530	9500
1872	CC		PCGS	55	CAC	25628423	11000
1872	S		PCGS	65	CAC	81939446	20000
1873		No Arrows, Closed 3	PCGS	50	CAC	20996355	550
1873		With Arrows	PCGS	64+	CAC	19846534	5000
1873	CC	No Arrows	PCGS	35	CAC	19319102	3750
1873	CC	With Arrows	PCGS	63		36940280	17000
1873	S	With Arrows	PCGS	58		21832402	3500
1874		With Arrows	PCGS	66	CAC	4943398	34000
1874	CC		PCGS	63	CAC	25399807	37500
1874	S		PCGS	64	CAC	25698095	10000
1875			PCGS	65	CAC	19696072	3850
1876	CC		PCGS	62	CAC	9099127	4150
1877	CC		PCGS	66	CAC	81340169	11200
1878			PCGS	66+	CAC	81874149	14500
1878	CC		PCGS	63	CAC	45062666	22500
1879			PCGS	66	CAC	29250361	6000
1880			PCGS	65+	CAC	80687135	5350
1881			PCGS	66+	CAC	33452644	12500
1882			PCGS	65		25679998	4500
1883			PCGS	64	CAC	83906411	3300
1884			PCGS	66	CAC	25041307	7500
1885			PCGS	66+	CAC	37581583	12500
1886			PCGS	63	CAC	34973082	2250
1887			PCGS	67	CAC	46819680	25000
1888			PCGS	66+	CAC	25686012	8250
1889			PCGS	66	CAC	03589910	10500
1890			PCGS	65	CAC	25010814	4950
1891			PCGS	64	CAC	36093412	2000

Please Hold Mailing GFRC Check Payments Until Wednesday

The window is now closed for mailing check payments to the Venice office. Please do not mail any check payments to GFRC until Wednesday with the Maine mailing address.

I will probably start updating the GFRC website with the Maine office mailing address later today as the risk of someone mailing a check payment to Maine is limited. Trisha, our Raymond postmaster, and Doug the Mailman are both aware that we return home in early May and will hold our Maine for pickup come May 5.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Given the hot Venice weather, today will find me in the GFRC office which also doubles as my entertainment center. The balance of the Poor Man's Collection lot will be loaded to the price list, and maybe a few more raw Liberty Seated dime from my reference collection.

Monday brings a substantial shipping day with the office packing starting on Wednesday.

As a reminder, the GFRC office will be closed on May 2 through May 4.

As always, thank you for the daily visits or whenever there is time to return to these online ramblings.

Be well!

April 26, 2025

Immediately Available - A Poor Man's Collection's Consignment

and

Final Day for Mailing Check Payments to Venice Office

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on the final Saturday of April 2025. Can you believe that we are already 33% through another year in a life? Thanks for the check in.

The countdown for the Maine transition continues as Diane has already begun to pack. While she is carefully assessing what to transport back to Maine, I'm hanging out in the GFRC office and keeping the 30 Day Price List updated with new offerings. Yesterday brought a visit from the Poor Man's Collection consignor with a 19 piece lot to sell. I've worked with this local collector on multiple occasions and was happy to provide help with his latest capital raising project to fund an acquisition in another hobby realm. This is the beauty of owning coins as a store of wealth. If being careful with numismatic acquisitions, these properties can always be converted back into dollar bills to fund alternate initiatives.

After a huge rally, spot gold has settled back into a consolidation phase which is necessary and healthy for extending further gains. My morning YouTube viewing, over breakfast, suggests that the United States is already in recession though the top 10% of the population continues to keep spending and is holding the equity markets together. What I've learned is the top 10% of the United States citizenry owns 88% of the equity market and accounts for 49% of overall consumer spending. These are staggering statistic that acknowledge the tiered nature of American society. Back to gold, I checked a few coin shop videos indicating that the general U.S. public is a net seller of gold at current levels as folks are cashing in on their gains.

Changing subjects, please be wary of text messages from unknown parties. Two days ago, I received a text message from "Research-Polls" which was conducting a study on local issues in Maine. I promptly opted out by typing in STOP. Immediately afterwards, I received eight SPAM phone calls across two days from Maine 207 originated phone numbers. The cause and effect could not be a coincidence. It appears that once my phone number was validated, the spammers jumped on the bandwagon with their automated dialing and transferring you to a call center in the event that you are foolish enough to answer. These people are xxxx in my book.

Let's move forward with today's numismatic content.

Immediately Available - A Poor Man's Collection's Consignment

Today's featured consignment is from the Poor Man's Collection. Our GFRC friend hopes to raise some cash for purchasing an expensive camera lens for his photography hobby thus the release of the following coins. Please don't hold the lack of CAC green beans against this individual or taint your assessment of his offerings. This lot features consistent originality with essentially all coins receiving GFRC-Choice or Gem quality ratings. For example, the 1900, 1902, and 1911-S Barber halves have secure Gem quality ratings but the economics don't support the costs for CAC to/from shipping and evaluation fees. Please pay special attention to the 1878-S CACG EF45 Trade dollar as probably the finest EF45 Trade dollar that I've handled and securing yet another GFRC-Gem quality rating.

All coins are immediately available with offer prices having been approved by our consignor. When the GFRC consignment queue is empty, a new consignment can move quickly through the process as all coins are photographed and about 50% of the way through the image processing loop. If tempted, please contact me for a price quote.

Of course, clicking on the below images provides access to a higher resolution version.

Poor Man's Collection Consignment

Priced and Immediately Available

Final Day for Mailing Check Payments to Venice Office

Today is the final day for mailing check payments to the GFRC Venice office address. Come Monday and Tuesday, no payments should be mailed to either office location. On Wednesday, checks can be mailed to our Maine office address as follows:

GFRC, 225 Valley Rd., Raymond, Maine 04071-6163

Thanks for working with me to avoid a check payment being captured by the USPS 1st class mail forwarding system.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Little changes here as the Fortins begin to slowly prepare for next weekend's northern trek. I will be mostly in the office today finalizing the Poor Man's Collection images and posting lots to the 30 Day Price List with short descriptions. There is only so much that can be said for an original VF30 Barber half dollar....

Thank you again for stopping by.

Be well!

April 25, 2025

Substantial U.S. Gold Consignment Arrives Next Week

Saturday is Last Day for Mailing Check Payments to Venice Office

and

Oregon Beaver Price Reductions

Greetings on the final Friday of April 2025 and welcome to the Daily Blog. We appreciate the ongoing readership.

The Maine transition countdown approaches its final week with a keen anticipation for being back home in Maine. Yes, I'm beginning to envision new projects for the back acreage park including the purchase of a battery powered UTV. The Polaris Ranger Kinetic XP is the leading candidate as an all-electric utility vehicle designed for durability and hauling/towing capacity. This UTV offers 140 lb-ft of torque which will be useful for towing the double wheeled Polar cart along the walking trails while loaded with gravel or crushed stone. The Ranger's bed alone can handle 1500 lbs saving the countless trips taken by Johnny2 to deliver a single bucket load of material at the far

ends of the property. Any attempts to expand the pond will require the movement of substantial amounts of rip-rap stone and gravel with the anticipated wear on Johnny2's front axle along with the time required to travel about one mile on a to/from trip. An electric Ranger will be ideal for this situation.

The 718 Boxster continues its journey across the northern Atlantic Ocean with an April 30 forecast for arriving into Jacksonville port. Sadly, we are leaving on May 3 which requires new plans for conducting the vehicle's buy-off, purchase closure, and transport to Maine. Those plans will be formulated next week with a visit to Sarasota Porsche. .

Let's move forward with GFRC numismatic content, shall we?

Substantial U.S. Gold Consignment Arrives Next Week

It was just a matter of time before a client committed a new consignment. Yesterday brought the commitment of a 19 piece U.S. gold consignment with an insured value of $70,000. The majority of the lot is $10 Liberty and Indian gold with some notable early Liberty dates including 1847, 1852, 1853/2, 1892-S, and two 1892-CC pieces. The consignment also includes an 1834 Classic Head $5 and an 1852 $20 Liberty piece as being worth sharing at this time. Grades range from AU50 through MS64 with both PCGS and NGC holders being present. Finally, 42% of the lots are CAC approved.

This new consignment will certainly garner considerable attention once posted to the price list. The current plan is to accomplish photography in Florida with the roll out taking place after our Maine transition. If all goes smoothly next week, we may get a few of these lots to the 30 Day Price List before leaving for Maine.

Saturday is Last Day for Mailing Check Payments to Venice Office

Just a quick reminder that today and Saturday are the final two day for mailing check payments to the Venice office. There will be a quiet period between April 27 - 29. Starting April 30, payment checks should be mailed to the Raymond, Maine address. The Maine address will be posted on the GFRC website come early next week.

Oregon Beaver Price Reductions

The "Beaver" sent along an email on Thursday providing guidance for several Liberty Seated half dollar pricing reductions. Following are those lots for your consideration. The 1856-S is a super cool coin with a peeling planchet error, as made, along with its conservative grading. I'm really surprised that this piece has not been sold to date.

Oregon Beaver Pricing Reductions

1877 PCGS MS66+ CAC 50C - $6700

1856-O Doubled Date WB-9 PCGS MS64 50C - $2200

1856-S WB-5 PCGS AU55 50C - $4100

Wrapping Up The Blog

The shipping department has the day off on Fridays which means more time in the office towards processing new listings.

A small local consignment arrives mid-morning at the HOA clubhouse followed by an afternoon of image processing and more lots being posted to the 30 Day Price List.

That is the extent of today's ramblings. Thank you so much for the visit.

Be well!

April 24, 2025

Powerlessness

and

A Brief Gold Pullback With Silver Shining

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Thursday morning. We appreciate the ongoing visits and continue to underestimate the size of the readership.

Unfortunately, there are no new showcase galleries to share in today's edition as the consignment queue is empty. Friday brings the drop-off of a small local consignment that will be acted upon quickly.

Let's move directly into the headline topics and open with a thought provoking piece by Seth Godin. Our lives typically move in cycles with certain times or events leading to a feeling of being powerless to affect conditions that we might be experiencing. Today's geopolitical uncertainties or closer to home, the degradation of Maine's quality of life due to northern and southern state political divides along with a substantial increase in narcotics trafficking, overdoses, and crime can bring a sense of hopelessness and a thought of moving out of the state. These are real issues that many of us will face during a lifetime. Godin reminds us that power is a continuum and should be considered in that manner. Each of us can make a difference even in a small way.

Seth Godin Blogpost - Powerlessness

Not a lack of power, but feeling as though we have none. Some people have been indoctrinated to prefer a life with no agency, as it also brings no responsibility. At the other extreme, some folks have decided that they have more power than they actually do.

Video games offer people a chance to experience virtual power–an opportunity to feel a lack of powerlessness. Click the mouse, something happens–power is in your grasp. By giving players agency, the games allow users to feel something they might be avoiding in real life.

Everyone is on a spectrum. No one has absolute power, and no one is powerless. But our expectation and experience of power is always a choice.

Choosing the attitude of powerlessness is self-defeating as well as self-negating. The fact that the attitude can be chosen is in itself a form of power. We can find control over our attitude and our actions, gaining priceless power as we do.

No one can change everything, but everyone can change something. If you choose to live a life with impact, it’s in your control to do so.

A Brief Gold Pullback With Silver Shining

Turbulence is the operative word for what we are experiencing in the precious metal and equities markets.

The equities markets have shown a propensity to react to every statement by President Trump. One day the markets drop at the thought of Trump attempting to fire Jerome Powell, the next day the markets rally when reassured that the opposite is the status quo. Yesterday's equity market rally with the S&P 500 climbing to 5,395 is an example.

On the other hand, the gold rally experienced a notable two day drop after a huge 2025 rally and briefly struggled to hold support at $3,200. This was a significant profit-taking event and the largest selloff of the precious metal in five years. All is better this morning as spot gold is back to $3340/oz during early morning trading on the LBMA.

Throughout the gold rally, silver has struggled and was written off as a industrial metal and could not break through the $33/oz mark though gold was approaching $3500. Now that gold has corrected a bit, monies might be flowing into the silver market as the morning quote stands at $33.42. If silver can break the $35 mark, there is no further overhead resistance to the $40 level.

Those of us who have an affinity for the precious metals must become use to "turbulence" but realize that there is an overriding upward trend due to the erosion of fiat currencies including the U.S. dollar. Governments can print their fiat currencies to infinity while the amount of available physical gold is quite limited with annual mining supplies being constant.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Please accept my apology for the lack of GFRC centric news in today's edition.

Today brings a full day in the GFRC office working on raw Liberty Seated dime web-book plate coins with new 30 Day Price Postings towards the afternoon hours.

Thank you again for the visit.

Be well!

April 23, 2025

In Just 10 Days....

and

How Rare is a CAC Approved 1870-S Seated Dime?

Greetings on a Wednesday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you so much for returning for another edition.

Yes, I am itching to get back to the Maine homestead. There is no question at this point in time. After spending months hanging out in the combination GFRC office and entertainment center, the thought of a large basement sound room and workshop in the barn is quite enticing. Of course, firing up Johnny2 (John Deere 2038R tractor) and listening to the diesel engine will foreshadow a summer and fall season in the back acreage park. Daily Blog readers should prepare for weekends without their favorite numismatic ramblings as I do plan to take some extended downtime from the GFRC business towards early morning back road drives in the 718 Boxster or simply enjoying the solitude of the pond during sunrises.

The winter of 2024/2025 has been satisfying in terms of the GFRC business and the number of news clients that are being served. Remaining is the final auction session for the Connoisseur's Auction Sale with bidding opening on May 10 and wrapping up on May 17. At that point, the Gerry Fortin and Newtown Liberty Seated Dime and Half Dollar Collections will have seen their first offering to the community. Afterwards, the balance of 2025 will be dedicated to selling those lots not meeting reserves along with a huge summer and early autumn auction sale of the Massachusetts and Tenafly Collections. Just collecting my thoughts indicates that the next nine months will be fully consumed with back acreage projects, several Porsche road trips, multiple visits by Matt and Renee's families and sustaining the GFRC business.

In just 10 days, the transition will be underway.

Let's again review the transition schedule as the final day for mailing check payments to the Venice office arrives on Saturday. Each year, we publish a transition schedule to ensure that customer check payments are not captured in the onerous USPS mail forwarding loop.

- Final Day for Mailing Payments to Venice Office - April 26

- Online Mailing Address Change to Maine Office - April 29

- First Day for Mailing Payment to Maine Address - April 30

- GFRC Office Closed - May 2 through May 4

- GFRC Office Reopens - May 5

- Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale Bidding Opens - May 10

As for the 718 Boxster delivery at Sarasota Porsche, our new car is about 40% of the way across the North Atlantic Ocean towards a Jacksonville Florida destination. At the current ocean transport rate, it should arrive into Jacksonville early next week. As they say, close but no cigar! By the time the vehicle is unloaded, clears U.S. customs, is transported to Sarasota, and prepared by the dealer, we will be in Maine. As mentioned previously, the Fortins cannot extend the Florida stay due to a host of personal appointments that start on May 6

How will we handle the buy off and purchase? There is a Plan A and a Plan B based on how long it takes the car to be unloaded and to clear port of entry customs. More on that topic later next week as we have better insights.

How Rare is a CAC Approved 1870-S Seated Dime?

This past weekend, GFRC was fortunately to gain access to a CAC approved 1870-S Liberty Seated dime. For the uninitiated, this might not appear to be a substantial event. For those of us who have a keen understanding of the Liberty Seated dime series, the opportunity to secure this dime was huge.

So how rare is a CAC approved circulated 1870-S dime? The answer is very rare! So rare that there are more CAC approved 1871-CC through 1874-CC circulated dimes than the 1870-S date. Following are images and description for this piece as now posted to the 30 Day Price List.

1870-S F-101 NGC VF30 CAC 10C - $2850

So Rare This Choice! Natural Coin Gray, CAC Approved. The 1870 San Francisco issue is unquestionably in the same league as the 1871 through 1874 Carson City dates in terms of locating strictly original examples that have been properly handled. A limited mintage of 50,000 is the starting point for explaining the date's present day rarity in circulated grades as nearly all saw extensive usage in western frontier commerce. Confirmation is easily obtained when checking the GFRC Sales Archive with a single piece being CAC approved, That piece is the recently auctioned PCGS MS65 specimen from the Gerry Fortin core dime collection. Fortunately, GFRC has gained access to one of the four CAC approved examples across all circulated grades with two being only VG10 and a lone AU50. This choice survivor is toned a natural coin gray with near pristine surfaces. The CAC price guide requires a serious amount of reconsideration, however the lack of any reported sales by the major auction houses provides no basis for an update. An incredible opportunity for those building a choice Liberty Seated dime collection. Housed in new large font NGC holder with CAC approval.

As evidence for my claim, following are the CAC approved statistics for the "big four" Carson City dates.

1871-CC - Total Approved is 13 with all being circulated. Yes, there are no CAC approved Mint State examples of this date

1872-CC - Total Approved is 17 with all being circulated. Same situation as 1871-CC in Mint State

1873-CC Arrows - Total Approved is 18 with all being circulated except for a lone MS65 specimen

1874-CC - Total Approved is 16 with 13 being circulated and 3 found in Mint State

How about the 1870-S?

1870-S - Total approved is 12 with four being circulated and 8 being Mint State. The large number of Mint State pieces is due to a hoard being released in at some point between the late 1980s and early 1990s.

This piece should not last long at the offer price.

Wrapping Up The Blog

There is no shipping today as the queue is somewhat empty or we are waiting for check payments from new customers. Instead, my day will be focused on photographing and processing raw Liberty Seated dimes that are mostly web-book plate coins. Revising web-book images and selling these raw dimes is quite time consuming but needs to get done on some point.

A small local consignment has been committed and will be dropped off at the Venice office either on Thursday or Friday to allow a few new posting to the price list this coming weekend.

At this point, the entire Pikes Peak Collection consignment as been posted to the 30 Day Price List other than a single coin that needed an image rework. The Pikes Peak quality is obviously above average given all but one coin without CAC approval. This release should be capitalized upon by sophisticated collectors.

Otherwise, I am mentally preparing for countless 718 Boxster rides on quiet early morning Maine back roads and the usual spring cleanup projects to beautify the homestead landscaping and clear the walking trails of downed branches,

Thank you again for the visit.

Be well!

April 22, 2025

Spot Gold Opens at $3480 in London

and

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale

Looking at Final Tranche of Gerry Fortin's Liberty Seated Dimes

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Tuesday morning. Thank you for stopping by.

Well, it looks like we are not in Kansas anymore with respect to the gold market. Spot gold opened at $3480 in London, during the overnight, and peaked at $3495. We are at the point of $100 price moves in a single day.

What is going on you might be asking? The long and short appears to be an international flight from U.S. dollar denominated assets with the monies moving into gold and other assets outside the United States. Longer term, the world financial system is in the early stages of being restructured. For those with curious minds, sparing 30 minutes to watch this David Lin interview of Luke Gromen and James Thorne will provide insights into what the future might bring. This interview is a no holds barred discussion of what Trump and Bessent could be planning for restructuring the United States financials given the $2 trillion deficit spending that will appear in 2025 alone.

Honestly, I believe that we are still in the early stages of gold's price movement to a much higher level. For those who think I am suffering from gold fever, simply look at a Bitcoin trend chart where prices rose from $10,000 in late 2020 to $60,000 by mid 2021. This was a sixfold increase with the current gold price action beginning to mirror this event.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFhs32AYi0k

Sadly, the United States population is still a net seller of gold at these higher prices when they should be holding on to their gold and buying more. We've been conditioned to believe in the U.S. equity market and the Magnificent 7 at highly inflated P/E levels. That bubble is now deflating. Chinese citizens are doing the opposite and buying gold to build personal wealth and currently being rewarded.

I'm still a buyer of bullion gold at these levels and if interested in raising numismatic capital or cash, just call or email me. I would rather see you sell directly to me rather than going to a coin shop to liquidate your physical.

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale - Looking at Final Tranche of Gerry Fortin's Liberty Seated Dimes

May 10 brings the final auction session for the Gerry Fortin and Newtown Liberty Seated coinage collection lots. There are a host of fantastic numismatic pieces to consider in this sale. Frankly, the auction reserves are looking less and less expensive by the day, as spot gold continues to increase, with these lots might being seen as bargains.

Let's take a look at the final tranche from the Gerry Fortin Collection in this Blog edition with an emphasis on the "common dates" that were meticulously selected for their exceptional eye appeal. Not every MS66 or MS67 CAC approved Seated dime is created equal. Many on the market are technically sound at these grade levels in terms of originality and luster. However, my goal was to locate and acquire the best of the best common dates to close out the final years of the Liberty Seated dime set.

Gerry Fortin's Liberty Seated Dimes - Late Date Auction Offerings

1885-S F-101 PCGS MS65 CAC 10C - $39,500

1888 Unlisted PCGS MS66 Gold CAC 10C - $6850

1882 F-104 PCGS MS67+ CAC 10C - $3750

1883 F-119a PCGS MS67 CAC 10C - $3000

1884 F-109 PCGS MS66 CAC 10C - $1500

1885 F-110 PCGS MS67+ CAC 10C - $5500

1886-S F-101 PCGS MS67 CAC 10C - $8750

1889 Unlisted PCGS MS67 CAC 10C - $4500

1890 F-112 PCGS MS66 CAC 10C - $1450

1891-O F-113 PCGS MS66 CAC 10C - $2750

Wrapping Up The Blog

A quick update on the Porsche 718 Boxster is that the car is now in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean heading to Jacksonville, Florida. My guess is that the transport vessel will arrive next Monday into port. The next question become how long will it take for the Boxster to be unloaded and to clear U.S. customs? Given our departure from Venice on May 3, which cannot be delayed, it is doubtful that there will be a dealer delivery prior to our northern transition.

Today brings another office day with light morning shipping and again working on price list offerings.

Thank you, as always, for the visit.

Be well!

April 21, 2025

Spot Gold at $3395

Price List Consignments Being Solicited

and

Tenafly Collection Joins Tom Coulombe'a 2025 Seated Dime Collection Auctions

Greetings on a late April Monday morning and thank you for checking in at the Daily Blog. We appreciated the ongoing readership.

Unfortunately, today's Blog edition will be brief as I have an early morning appointment to contend with. Therefore, let's jump right into the headline topics.

Spot Gold at $3395

Let's start with a peek at gold trading over in London. Spot gold has climbed to $3395 and shows no signs of slowing down.

This gold rally has strong legs with an underlying move by nation states and sovereign wealth funds to repatriate their physical gold. In actuality, gold is not rallying, but rather the U.S. dollar is losing global trust and value. I've spoken about gold revaluation and the BRICS settlement currency back by gold in a host of Blog editions which are the more overt suggestions for gold's current price movement. However, there is much more that is being learned as I dig deeper into the matter. Key is what is taking place in China which undoubtedly has the globe's largest gold stash. I could write a long article on that topic, but not today. Calls for $4000 and maybe $4500 gold by the end of 2025 are becoming more prevalent. Sadly, the United States retail market is still in a liquidation mode with private ownership decreasing rather than increasing. We can thank the financial news media and its biases to equities among other factors. At that point, I am proud to be called a "gold bug".

Price List Consignments Being Solicited

Sunday brought the addition of more Pikes Peak consignment postings to the price list with decent sales continuing to occur. If you've not taken a good look at the Pikes Peak lots, then please do as the quality is well above average.

There are a few more early silver commems and Morgans to load today. Afterwards, the consignment queue is exhausted. If seeking a quick turn on a consignment, now is the time to strike by shipping me some coins.

Tenafly Collection Joins Tom Coulombe'a 2025 Seated Dime Collection Auctions

It is now official! The Tenafly Collection has made a decision to liquidate his numismatic collection, most of which is CAC approved and was acquired via GFRC.

Sunday's discussion has confirmed that intent as we begin to plan the physical transfer of the collection to the Maine office at some point in May. Of interest is the better date $5 Liberty gold holdings that were slowly acquired during the 2021-2022 time frame along with a host of Liberty Seated 10c and 25c pieces.

Once again, the targeted time frame for the next GFRC Online Auctions events will be August (after the OKC ANA) and October.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings another round of heavy shipping as GFRC sales continue to be robust. The balance of the day will find me in the Venice office posting the last of the Pikes Peak Collection lots to the 30 Day Price List. Afterwards, due to an empty consignment queue, I will be ramping up the release of raw Liberty Seated dimes that are web-book plate coins. There is sufficient inventory to last me well into June if solely focused on that task. However, I do expect someone to come forward with new consignments.

That is it for today. Tuesday's Blog will focus on the forthcoming Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale that begins on May 10th.

Thank you again for the visit.

Be well!

April 20, 2025

A Time of Renewal - Happy Easter 2025

and

Pikes Peak Consignment Rollout is Underway

Greetings on Easter morning 2025 and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for the continued visits.

The Easter holiday is an important time of renewal for many individuals as it coincidences with the arrival of the Spring season. As flowers begin to bloom and trees begin to bud and release their leaves, we are reminded of nature's annual cycle and the beauty of starting fresh. I have fond childhood memories of Easter, not only from the Easter bunny and chocolates, but also the end of a long cold Maine weather and some new clothes for attending services at Holy Family church. Even today, Easter marks the forthcoming transition from our winter shelter in Venice Florida to our ancestral home in northern New England.

So transformation is in the air and I'm mentally ready to spend two days driving the I-95 corridor to return home. Once back in Maine, the trees will still be bare as spring arrives late at northern latitudes. By the second week of May, the maples and birches will be well on their way to adding color to the landscape followed by the mighty oaks.

For 2025, the major question mark is will the new 718 Boxster arrive before we depart for Maine? As of this morning, the automotive transport vessel is off the coast of Morocco and has made a turn for the southern United States. Diane and I have a Plan B for securing the car in event that we are already in Maine once it s ready for official transfer. We are unable to delay our Maine return further as a host of annual wellness appointments are in place for the weeks of May 5 and May 12. Let's not forget that the GFRC Online Auctions Session 3 event opens for bidding on May 10 too.

Pikes Peak Consignment Rollout is Underway

Saturday brought the initial posting of the new Pikes Peak consignment to the 30 Day Price List. At this point, the Barber coinage and Trade dollars have been listed with a decent amount of initial sales. As an FYI, several overnight purchases have yet to be flagged on the price list.

As this point, the remaining lots to post include early silver commemoratives and several Morgan dollars.

Afterwards, I will be returning to raw Liberty Seated dimes from my web-book reference collection to keep the 30 Day Price List active.

Wrapping Up The Blog

There is little else to ramble upon this morning as I'm in a low energy state on an important Christian holiday.

Again, we appreciate the ongoing visit to the Daily Blog and our various price lists.

Thank you and be well!

April 19, 2025

Looking Ahead During 2025...

GFRC Online Auctions - The Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection

Greetings on a peaceful Saturday morning as the month of April moves towards closure. Yes, we are mentally transitioning to the upcoming Maine relocation. Thank you for the visit.

Today's Blog edition focuses on the balance of 2025 with an important GFRC Online auction announcement as a result of yesterday's conversation with Tom Coulombe. Tom and I have shared our passion for Liberty Seated dimes since the mid 1990s. Back in the early days of my die variety research, duplicate dimes would be offered for sale on eBay. One of my constant clients was Tom as we both found enthusiasm for the series and numismatics in general. This friendship has endured for decades with more to be discussed at the appropriate time.

As a result of yesterday's confirmation, the die is cast to use a numismatic metaphor. GFRC Online Auctions is excited to announce the forthcoming sale of the Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime collection in a two part event during August and October of this year. The Massachusetts Collection will be the anchor offering with incremental consignors already wishing to become part of this major auction event.

Once back in Maine, Tom and I have already made a tentative appointment for the physical transfer of his dime collection to GFRC that will kick off the preparation and marketing process.

To whet everyone's appetite for the forthcoming sale, Tom sent along the following image that showcases his collection at literally a high level. Of course, clicking on the image will provide access to a higher resolution version.

The Massachusetts Liberty Seated Dime Collection

For Blog readers who wish to take a deeper dive into the Massachusetts Collection, the 100% complete Coulombe Family Collection can be view at the GFRC Open Set Registry by clicking on this link:

Coulombe Family Collection.

Tom's collection has attained a 59% CAC approval rate coupled with a 57.2 average grade, a substantial feat for his decades long collecting journey. Again, more will be shared once the collection has been transferred to GFRC during the first half of May.

This announcement should also serve notice to other clients who may wish to become part of the planned August and October 2025 auction events.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings a substantial amount of morning shipping followed by the balance of the day in the GFRC office.

The Pikes Peak Collection consignment, as illustrated yesterday, has been loaded into the COIN system with offer prices approved. Since a fair number of lots were purchased from GFRC in the past, those lots will be immediately posted to the 30 Day Price List to initiate this new offering.

Otherwise, this is little else to share as I don't wish to move back in the gold and silver topic this morning. There are developments in this realm that will be kept for another day.

Our sincere thanks go out to each and every Daily Blog readers for the ongoing visits and GFRC price list purchases.

Be well!

April 18, 2025

GFRC Attains $18,000,000 Consignor Proceeds Milestone

GFRC is Again Soliciting Consignments

and

Type Coins Galore - CAC Approved Consignment - Pikes Peak Collection

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on Good Friday 2025. The entire GFRC staff is pleased with your ongoing visits to these daily ramblings. Thank you so much for returning today.

Where shall we begin today? How about an insight from Seth Godin that I subscribe to?

Seth Godin Blogpost - Charged by the word

In a hurried world with infinite content, it's worth considering that you're no longer paid by the word when you write, in fact, you should pay for every extra word you use.

Be as brief as is useful.

Let's put Godin's advice to use in today's Blog edition, shall we?

First up is a 718 Boxster GTS 4.0 status. My dream car is taking a holiday cruise from Emden, Germany to Jacksonville, FL via a scenic route along the European coast per the Porsche cellphone app. It is rather cool to see the vehicle transport ship's (it holds 5000 to 8000 cars) journey being mapped in real time. Presently, the vessel is off the coast of Portugal and might be making a stop in Lisbon.

The precious metals markets are idle today due to observance of Good Friday. Yesterday brought a new *Life in the Vault* YouTube video from Andrew McGuire which clarified the changes and dislocations in the gold market with Basel III rules and regulations compliance reaching the United States in early July. The long and the short of Basel III is that allocated gold (physical) will be treated as a Tier 1 asset (real money) while unallocated gold (paper ownership) not so. Just imagine going to a bank for a substantial loan with collateral. On one hand, a 100 oz gold bar is presented while on the other hand, a stock brokerage account statement with ETF gold fund investment is offered. As a banker, which piece of collateral would you find more compelling for lending? Basel III may drive a stake through the paper driven COMEX heart within a few years.

Andrew McGuire also "went on a limb" and forecasted $4500 gold by the end of 2025. Major bullion banks (JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, BoA) are also moving into this higher forecasted direction.

Let's get on with numismatics...

GFRC Attains $18,000,000 Consignor Proceeds Milestone

When launching a small retirement hobby business in 2014, who would have thought that it would have grown into its current size and importance to the Liberty Seated collecting community?

Yesterday brought the sale of two substantial lot (1891-O PCGS MS63 25c and 1861-O W-11 CSA Obverse PCGS MS60 50c) which pushed our consignment proceeds metric past the $18,000,000 mark. I'm certainly pleased with this new milestone being achieved and look forward to reaching the next million dollar threshold by the end of 2025. Of course, consignments are required, so let's issue a call for more consignments.

GFRC is Soliciting New Consignments

Once again the cupboards are almost empty with the next headline consignment being the last to process before I return to raw Liberty Seated dime from my reference collection. If interested in working with GFRC (or GFRC-Lite) for the sale of your numismatic items, I am just a phone call or email away.

Type Coins Galore - CAC Approved Consignment - Pikes Peak Collection

Though many of the follows newly consigned lots are on the lower side of our typical price scale, I could not resist handling this new offering due to the premium quality and nearly 100% CAC approval rate. All of the following Pikes Peak coins have been photographed and will be moving into the COIN database loading and image processing phase today. I'm sorry, but there are no First Rights of Refusal this time around due to the volume and lower price points. I will announce when there are loading to the 30 Day Price List in an upcoming Blog edition.

As usual, clicking on the image will provide access to a higher resolution version for more detailed inspection.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Time moves along quickly with just two weeks remaining before the Fortins move back to Maine. April 26 is the final day for mailing payment checks to the Venice office.

Today finds me working in the GFRC office the entire day. Therefore, don't be bashful about placing a numismatic order or proposing a consignment shipment.

That is all she wrote in a succinct manner on a Friday morning. Thanks again for the visit.

Be well!

April 17, 2025

Rich's "On The Lite Side" Blog

and

The New Orleans Collection Visits CACG Virginia Beach - Part 2

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a mid-April Thursday morning. Your ongoing readership is truly appreciated.

Other than spot gold attaining the $3359/oz level and GFRC sales remaining robust, there is not much to discuss this morning. Therefore, let's turn this Blog edition over to two contributors. The first piece is major news as Rich Hundertmark has launched his own Blog web page on the GFRC-Lite website. Our second contribution is the New Orleans Collections follow-on installment concerning his visit with John Albanese and the CACG grading staff at their Virginia Beach location. Let's get right to it....

Rich's "On The Lite Side" Blog

Welcome to GFRC-Lite's 1st published blog on the Lite website!! As many know, I've previously published show reports on Gerry's Daily blog but will now publish directly to the Lite website.

In making this move I will now be able to add more pictures of the venues attended along with new coin purchases. Additionally, I'll expand pre-show coverage by reporting results of new business developments including grading submission results and new consignments received, etc.

Blog readers can anticipate that I will write 1 or 2 blogs per month that focus on Lite's show results, new purchase activities, market insights and any other observations or experiences that I feel readers will find of interest.

With that said, let's start with reporting that at the Baltimore show I made a small submission of raw coins to CACG. Submitting raw coins to grading services now takes a good understanding of surfaces, originality and market pricing to be successful. I'll now discuss the two copper cents submitted that I felt were original and "CACG worthy". I have a pretty good eye for copper and wanted to see how my grading married up to CACG.

1- A 1874 Indian cent I thought was an original brown AU55 - AU58 straight graded AU55. This was a consignment coin taken in at FUN that the consignor had bought at a very good price. He thought it was Uncirculated, but I informed him that I thought AU. After discussion it was decided to submit at the AU level.

2- A 1808 half cent that straight headed F15. I had purchased this coin as part of a collection and felt that the surfaces were original and unabated. The CACG grade of F15 met expectations.
These two coins are now listed on the GFRC-Lite website under the "Early Copper & Small Cents" Category as follows:

As to upcoming show activity, the Fayetteville show run by the Cape Fear Club is but 2 1/2 weeks away and Lite is in the early preparation stage. Miss Vicky from the club
called a few days ago to confirm Lite's attendance as a first-time dealer. I thanked her for the follow up and assured her that I was looking forward to attending this event.

I would like to thank all the blogamaniacs that read my previous reports and especially Gerry for allowing me to use his forum.

Happy collecting!

Rich

Thanks Rich, we are looking forward to seeing your forthcoming Blog page on the GFRC-Lite website.

The New Orleans Collection Visits CACG Virginia Beach - Part 2

Let's continue the our client's recollection of his visit with John Albanese and the CACG grading staff at their Virginia Beach facility with this Part 2 article.

After a morning tour of the facility and also meeting John Butler and Ron and even John's son Michael, we met for lunch-it was certainly a bonus to have Ron join us for lunch. He has a big personality and some great grading room stories as well-including his decision to leave a FL based TPG and join JA in starting CAC.

There has always been a bit of uncertainty in my mind about the future of numismatics-are we doing enough to bring up the next generation of collectors to buy our coins? I'm not sure I have a better answer for that after last week. But, I feel much better about what CAC/CACG are adding to stabilize the TPG industry.

I thought I was a moderately sophisticated collector and I used to put a lot of trust in a certain west coast TPG. And even in the early days of CAC, I didn't think I always needed that reassurance of the green bean. I will say not every entry in a collection requires beaned/CACG coins, but the best coins will eventually end up there. Market grading probably has established firm footing due to set registry competition and those that continue to chase plastic, but CACG isn't interested in that game. They also made it very clear that gradeflation has continued to hold back the full value of the top coins within a grade validating why CAC was born almost 20 years ago. Initially, I didn't understand the importance of hearing that these graders don't continue to collect coins—how best to eliminate personal bias in the grading room. It's been a dirty little secret in the industry that lots of money has been made by graders assigning a lower grade in the grading room to facilitate purchasing a coin on the cheap, then later turning a profit with the inevitable upgrade. Imagine how terrible this is for the collector/seller to be taken advantage of…and then find out later you were screwed. Wonder how many collectors left the hobby over the years with dishonest tactics like this. This attitude to provide technical grading (not market grading) and these graders' integrity help make me optimistic for the future of our hobby.

Overall, this was an enjoyable as much as educational trip for me-probably the highlight of my numismatic year!

Happy collecting, The New Orleans Collection....

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings a full day in the GFRC office along with a quick retrieval of our Acura MDX from a local dealership. What was anticipated to be just an oil change and correcting an erratic right blinker turned out to be a leaking shock and replacement of both front end shocks and a full alignment. Florida does not have an annual inspection requirement as Maine, but a visit to our Acura dealer is an excellent substitute for ensuring that the GFRCmobile is in tip top shape for the long drive back to Maine in a few weeks.

There are a far number of overnight orders to be serviced. Please keep those coming!

Let's close today's Blog at this point and move along with another day in a life. A special thanks goes out to Rich and the New Orleans Collection for handing today's content creation burden.

Thank you again for the visit. Be well!

April 16, 2025

Evergreen State Collection - Early Silver Commems to Consider

The New Orleans Collection Visits CACG Virginia Beach - Part 1

and

Diane Locates Missing Chicago Shipment...Whew!

Greetings on a Wednesday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for visiting.

Spot gold is at it again. During London trading, gold has crossed through the $3300 mark with a peak trade at $3318. The fact that gold continues to gap up is telling. I could go on and on concerning this topic but will leave it to you to decide why gold continues to shoot upward at an unprecedented pace. Silver, on the other hand continues to trail gold and is attempting to hold the $33 mark. Key for silver is breaking through $35 at which time we could see similar upward gaps as gold.

Today's Blog will cover considerable ground so let's get started as I have an early MDX oil change appointment to contend with.

Evergreen State Collection - Early Silver Commems to Consider

Our Evergreen State client has been numismatically busy with a substantial collecting goal shift. GFRC has recently handled a host of his no longer core holding including a Liberty Seated dime proof set. Now, our client has decided to liquidate his early silver commemoratives set with the higher priced coins being provided to GFRC while the lower priced dates are heading to GFRC-Lite. Today brings a lovely gallery showcase of the better dates in that collection with high grade Mint State pieces being offered.

Opening the showcase is an exceptional 1936 Gettysburg that will secure a JUST BUY IT NOW recommendation once posted to the 30 Day Price List. Yes, I've priced this one a tad higher than the CAC guide for a good reason. Simply stated, this is an incredible gem and our client should be rewarded for owning this piece. The balance of the lots speak for themselves.

If interested, please email me asap for first shot. These lots will post to the price list during the afternoon hours.

Evergreen State Collection - Early Silver Commems to Consider

1936 Gettysburg PCGS MS66+ CAC 50C - $1300

1925-S California PCGS MS6 CAC 50C - $1250

1926 Sesquicentennial PCGS MS65 50C - $1125

1915-S Pan-Pac AU58 50C - $525

1920 Maine PCGS MS66 50C - $650

1925 Vancouver PCGS MS65 50C - $785

1935 Connecticut PCGS MS66 50C - $625

1935 Hudson PCGS MS65 50C - $1100

1935-S San Diego PCGS MS67 50C - $625

1936-S Columbia PCGS MS67 CAC 50C - $575

1937 Antietam PCGS MS67 50C - $1250

The New Orleans Collection Visits CACG Virginia Beach - Part 1

Another major GFRC client has a great story to tell after being invited to visit the CAC Grading facility in Virginia Beach and spending one on one time with John Albanese. Our client was truly honored for the opportunity and asked if I would publish his story in the Blog. Today brings the first part of his visit recollections.

Greetings from warm Louisiana.

This past week, I was fortunate to be invited to Virginia Beach to have dinner with the wizard of Bedminster himself-yep, John Albanese. This was likely the culmination of doing business the last 15 years (mostly one sided-him providing me coins for my set). The purpose of the trip was to tour his new CACG facility (I had never been to a TPG) and meet in a casual (not the bourse floor) setting to discuss all things related to numismatics. If you know John, then you know he is a tremendous wealth of knowledge and a straight shooter complete with a dry wit. John picked us up for dinner in his bullet proof car and thank goodness he's a better grader than driver—that's a story for another time. We mostly discussed recent auctions and individual coins with a few interesting stories to boot. At one point, I asked him about a certain rare date seated dime that I had at the top of my want list and he knew

who owned the best 2 examples-and text them on the spot to see if they still owned and were willing to broker a deal…stay tuned! His recall was incredible.

JA could recount 40+ years of ownership of an individual coin-that was not recorded in any auction house catalog-it was satisfying to hear that one of my recent seated half purchases (no pedigree listed) had been owned by the late collector and sculptor Stewart Blay, whom I rank as one of the sharpest non-professional coin graders of the modern era-arguably as good as the top pro's. To own a Blay coin should be regarded a real prize as he was very picky. In fact, I would go so far as to buy any Blay coin sight unseen-as that's as good as a green bean to me. I showed him a few crappy iPhone pics of auctioned coins that did not sticker, and he was quite often able to remember their flaw. Pretty remarkable for someone who sees ~1000/d in the grading/stickering room. As Gerry says, pay attention to the upper obverse/reverse fields on seated coins as these are areas where surface manipulation occurs-John certainly validated that more than once.

As you might imagine, there's nothing about the CACG building that identifies it to the outside world. As you enter, it becomes infinitely clear that there's incredible security everywhere. Even in the lobby, there's nothing that identifies it as a coin grading company. After passing through a few more badge-access points, we entered the vault and grading area. It was a remarkably efficient process watching John Butler, Ron Drzewucki and JA grade multiple coins each minute. Most of what they saw was surprisingly low end stuff that was raw, many cleaned, and required no discussion (There was a small box of coins that required more thought, but only 1-2% of the total). Ron said the fun is seeing a bunch of mundane material and the very next coin could be an 8-figure masterpiece like the recently graded 1794 $1 now in CACG-67. I guess coin grading is like a box of chocolates …as a memorable movie line stated. After grading, the coins go to photography with several photo stations set up for various image capture techniques depending on the coin type, and then on to encapsulation. 2 special pieces of equipment had been developed to deal with encapsulation/crack-outs. One smaller apparatus resembled a tabletop paper cutter with a powerful arm to cut through any slab, but especially the more malleable plastic of CACG slabs. A second type of machine was used to sonically seal the 2 plastic halves of the CACG slab, such that high frequency sound waves melt the plastic together in a split second. The noise was very unpleasant and I would have to wear headphones to be in that area for any length of time. After quality check, newly slabbed coins are off to shipping. As a side note, I learned there are currently no more plastic CACG boxes going out as an identified flaw in design makes it nearly impossible to open with other TPG slabs in the middle portion-a new design is supposed to be available soon.

Happy collecting, The New Orleans Collection....

Diane Locates Missing Chicago Shipment...Whew!

Yes, I cried "wolf" to soon on a waylaid shipment to a Chicago client but regardless, we are thrilled to report that the shipment was located inside the USPS system and was retrieved late yesterday afternoon. I'm relieved that three dimes from my personal collection have been properly settled into another emerging collection along with a marvelous 1853 With Arrows dime.

A grand shout goes to Diane and the time spent on the phone with USPS customer service to locate the package and have it placed in a appropriate retrieval location in a primary Chicago post office. Diane is the master when it comes to asking the right questions and guiding problematic packages through their recovery process.

Wrapping Up The Blog

As mentioned earlier, this morning brings an oil change appointment while the afternoon hours will find me working in the GFRC office. Today's goal is to post the Evergreen State Collection early silver commemoratives to the 30 Day Price List along with photography of another newly arrived consignment. This new consignment is wide ranging and exclusively CAC approved with a fair number of lots under the $500 level.

Of course, I will be watching how gold fairs today along with the equity markets in general.

As always, thank you for returning for another Daily Blog edition.

Be well!

April 15, 2025

USPS Finally Admits...

and

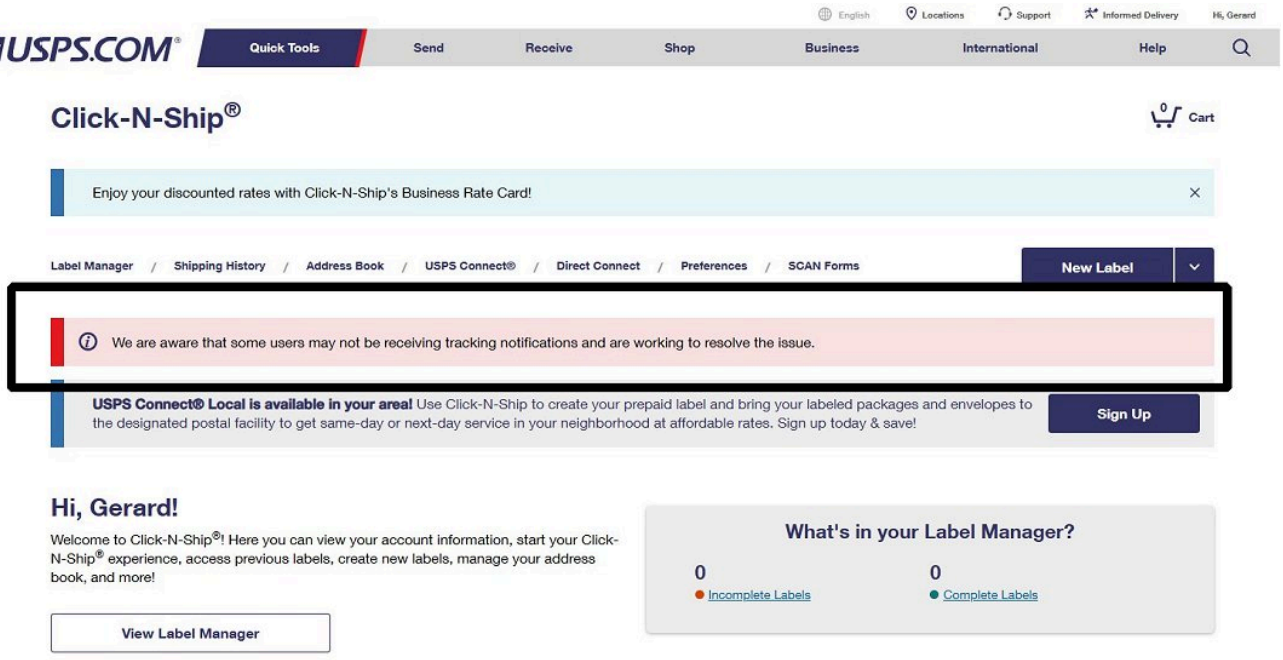
Session 2 Auction Lots Gone Missing in Chicago

Greetings and welcome to a USPS centric Blog issue on tax day. Thank you so much for the returning visit.

Yes, this is a USPS issue with some good news and definitely, some bad news.

The good news is that USPS has finally admitted that their new Enhanced Click N Ship system is not issuing email notifications to both addressees and to the sender. For the past several weeks, GFRC has been receiving complaints that customers were not receiving the usual shipment tracking number emails. In my heart, I knew that USPS had an issue but since being a proactive and reflective business owner, I crawled through all the Enhanced Shipping screens and toggled the notifications buttons towards hopefully finding an error on my part. During the past week, it was blatantly obvious that USPS had an issue, therefore I started sending daily notifications via personal email to ensure that clients were properly notified.

Yesterday brought the admission from USPS on their Enhanced Shipping access screen per below. Talk about a weak admission with the words "some" and "may" per the message outlined in a black box by me.


English
Locations
Support
Informed Delivery
Hi, Gerard
USPS.COM
Quick Tools
Send
Receive
Shop
Business
International
Help
Click-N-Ship®
Cart
Enjoy your discounted rates with Click-N-Ship's Business Rate Card!
Label Manager / Shipping History / Address Book / USPS Connect® / Direct Connect / Preferences / SCAN Forms
New Label
We are aware that some users may not be receiving tracking notifications and are working to resolve the issue.
USPS Connect® Local is available in your area! Use Click-N-Ship to create your prepaid label and bring your labeled packages and envelopes to the designated postal facility to get same-day or next-day service in your neighborhood at affordable rates. Sign up today & save!
Sign Up
Hi, Gerard!
Welcome to Click-N-Ship®! Here you can view your account information, start your Click-N-Ship® experience, access previous labels, create new labels, manage your address book, and more!
View Label Manager
What's in your Label Manager?
0
Incomplete Labels
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Complete Labels

Session 2 Auction Lots Gone Missing in Chicago

Now for the really bad USPS news....

During the years of operating GFRC, Diane and I have seen the various ways that packages disappear in the USPS system and how those packages are reported. On Wednesday of last week, Diane noted that a Session 2 Express Priority auction shipment to a Chicago client received a "No Access to Delivery Location" alert. Our shipment arrived on schedule into the Chicago distribution center but then was flagged as undeliverable due to an issue with the delivery location. Nothing had changed at our client's premises with the successful bidder waiting several days for the package to arrive. There were no pink slips as notice of a delivery attempt. Once Diane noted the status code, I instinctively knew this was the kiss of death for that package.

Now comes the challenge of dealing with a USPS system where no one takes accountability. Our client went to the post office yesterday and was told to not worry, the package would be delivery that day. Nope, the package was not delivered with our client securing the classic USPS counter person head fake. *Move on sir and everything will be alright as I don't want to deal with the problem* was the implied message that only seasoned shippers can understand. Since the package did not arrive, our client was told to call a number for support. Isn't this so convenient as more deflections into the myriad channels of the USPS colossus?

Poor Diane must now step in from Venice with her 45-60 minute on hold calls into the USPS contact system with a high probability of filing a claim. If I've cried "wolf" too soon and the package is found, then I will still be overjoyed. But my gut tells me otherwise. Hugh Woods is not going to be pleased with the size of this potential claim once USPS acknowledges that the package has gone missing. I will be turning this gallery into a PDF file that will be sent to dealers attending the CSNS show next week as a warning of stolen goods that might be fenced on the bourse floor. I will also contact Chicago area dealers with the same document as a warning that these are stolen goods if being offered for sale.

Session 2 Lots (and More) Gone Missing in Chicago

1846 NGC EF45 CAC H10C - Cert #3813006003

1853 PCGS MS66 CAC 10C - Cert #3622223

1856 PCGS MS66 CAC 10C - Cert # 45824402

1856-O PCGS MS64 CAC 10C - Cert # 21700875

1860 PCGS MS66+ CAC 10C - Cert #25649466

Given the specialty nature of these high grade or rare date Liberty Seated coins, their appearance back into the market should be easily noted. The key is raising dealer awareness as no dealer wishes to purchased stolen coins. I will be preparing a printable PDF flyer today and emailing to fellow CSNS attending dealers on Thursday.

Wrapping Up The Blog

There is little else to discuss in this edition. It is crickets with respect to the 718 Boxster status with another visit to Sarasota Porsche being necessary come Thursday.

The Evergreen State early commemorative halves will see a pricing proposal today along with wrapping up image processing. If my day goes as planned, we might have a lovely showcase gallery for Wednesday's Blog edition.

Otherwise, I am starting to plan initial activities once being back at the Maine homestead. After a winter of working nearly seven days a week in the GFRC office, I can't wait to get back to the basement sound room, the barn with Johnny2, and the back acreage trails. There is more to life that selling coins and watching gold's price action.

As always, thank you for visiting the Daily Blog.

Be well!

April 14, 2025

Premium Seated Dimes from the Sheffield Collection

Greetings and welcome to another round of Daily Blog ramblings and a showcase gallery. We are truly pleased with your ongoing visits.

Thoughts of Maine and the homestead back acreage were running through my brain on Sunday. I reached out to my excavation partner, Dave Wilkinson, to ensure that he has recovered from thumb replacement surgery and is still in business. The good news is that Dave is well and excited about returning to our Ledge Hill Park project with his trusty excavator for indulging my ideas for the next enhancements. What are these potential projects you might be asking?

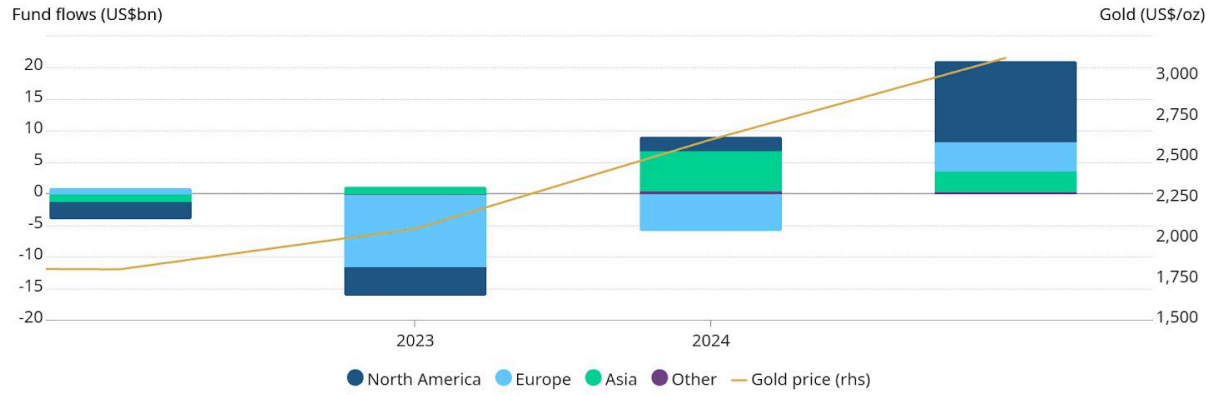
The first priority will be cutting another walking trail. This time, we will cut a bisecting trail from the northern loop down to the southern edge of the property line. The vision is a meandering walking trail that will take the path of least resistance in terms of disturbing larger trees and rock formations. Of course, the trail will be cut on a sloping terrain which means more loops perpendicular to the slope than straight downhill sections which are subject to severe erosion during heavy late summer thunderstorms. The second major project is finalizing the area behind and to the left of the gazebo area. I'll share more concerning this project once we are back in Maine with images. Lastly, is the pond expansion which is a huge challenge for Dave's excavator and Johnny2. The summer of 2025 will not be boring.

Let's move on to gold for a moment.

As everyone knows at this point, spot gold rocketed upward on Friday and peaked at $3245/oz. Quality gold mining stocks also shot up consistent with the price of gold. Finally, we are starting to see that the retail investment sector is starting to appreciate how gold has been the lone asset that has perform as a store of wealth during the current equity market drop. This graph, from the World Gold Council, illustrates the fact that investment capital is moving into gold ETFs in a big way during Q1'25 with North America leading the way. As monies pour into gold ETFs, those funds must purchase physical gold, in the open market, for their vaults. Undoubtedly, these purchases compete with global central banks which are still adding physical.

Gold ETF Flows

Yearly flows in Dollars



Data as of 31 March, 2025

Demand captures changes in global/regional gold holdings; fund flows capture the net amount of money (in USD) that comes in or out of gold ETFs globally/regionally. See methodology note: https://www.gold.org/download/file/16223/ETF-Flows-Data-Methodology.pdf.

GOLDHUB.COM WORLD GOLD COUNCIL

During the weekend, I spent free time watching a host of YouTube videos on similar topics including the gold market, global economic conditions, and specifically, the battle between United States fiscal and monetary policies. There were several themes that emerged from the many presentations.

- The U.S. is in a recession or heading into a recession as the M2 money supply is contracting. That fact that WTI crude oil is trading at $62.32 is a good indication of expected lower demand.

- The common assumption that tariffs will increase inflation could be misguided as higher prices will discourage consumption. We must acknowledgment that much of the America citizenry will be unable to afford higher priced good for the sake of consumption.

- United States fiscal policies are core to the fate of the equity markets and gold prices. Fiscal policies control the long end of the U.S. Treasury bond yield curve, IE. the 10 and 30 Year notes. As much as the Federal Reserve can try to stimulate or suppress the U.S. economy with its monetary policy, the Fed only controls the short end of the yield curve which is targeting bank to bank lending.

- If the United States slips into a notable recession, the Federal budget deficit will only increase further placing upward pressure on the 10 Year Treasury bond yield (currently at 4.46%). The amount of U.S. debt refinancing during 2025 is staggering along with the incremental deficit spending that continues to pile up. Trust in the U.S. dollar is waning as deficits continue to rise along with aggressive sanctions, and now tariff actions. Many countries are substituting gold and moving away from U.S. dollars for their foreign reserve holdings.

- Probably the most important point to understand is how the Federal Reserve monetary policy is becoming a weaker tool when the government is unable to curtail deficit spending. There reaches a point where all the Federal Reserve can do is to buy U.S. debt by issuing more "money" and raising the money supply.

I hope these bullet points were useful.

Premium Seated Dimes from the Sheffield Collection

The Sheffield Collection was an important player in the Session 2 Auction Sale, and subsequently has released the following Liberty Seated dimes back to the marketplace. Look for these little beauties to post to the 30 Day Price List this afternoon.

Premium Seated Dimes from the Sheffield Collection

1838 F-111a NGC MS66 10C - $4950

1880 F-102a PCGS MS66+ CAC 10C - $2400

1860 F-101a PCGS MS64 10C - $950

1882 F-101a CACG MS65+ 10C - $875

1883 F-109 CACG MS64 10C - $625

Wrapping Up The Blog

Monday mornings always bring accumulated shipping and today is no different. Afterwards, I will be spending the balance of the day in the office.

Thank you so much for the return visit. We hope that you've enjoyed this edition.

Be well!

April 13, 2025

Mapping The GFRC Maine Transition

and

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auctions Sale - Reminder and Highlights

Greetings on a mid-April Sunday morning and welcome to another Daily Blog edition. Thank you so much for returning,

With our Maine transition now less than three weeks away, my attention is being drawn to New England weather conditions and what can be expected upon our arrival home. So far, it is a typical spring in the Northeast with daytime highs in the upper 50s to low 60s along with colder evenings in the 40s. Rains has been predominant during the first half of April, while the 10 day forecast suggests a dryer second half of the month. Therefore, there is nothing out of the ordinary at this point.

Once home, the typical spring clean-up chores will need to be addressed along with annual physicals and returning dentist visits. We well know the busy May routine once settling back into the homestead.

Let's walk through the forthcoming Maine transition schedule together plus a reminder that the Connoisseur's Session 3 auction sale will begin not long after relocating back to the Maine office. Each year, we publish a transition schedule to ensure that customer check payments are not captured in the onerous USPS mail forwarding loop

- Final Day for Mailing Payments to Venice Office - April 26

- Online Mailing Address Change - April 29

- First Day for Mailing Payment to Maine Address - April 30

- GFRC Office Closed - May 2 through May 4

- GFRC Office Reopens - May 5

- Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale Bidding Opens - May 10

Where does the new 718 Boxster fit into the Maine transition? At this point, the assumption is that the new sports car will arrive into Sarasota Porsche after our Maine departure. If prior to the departure, at least we can experience an unveiling ceremony at the dealership followed by writing a substantial check. The car would then be transported to Maine via a carrier recommended by the dealership. If the car arrives after our departure, Diane and I will fly back to Sarasota at some point in late May to buy-off the car and drive back to Maine in a more casual manner. At least, that is the current plan. The alternative is just having the car shipped to Maine and wiring payment to the dealership.

Connoisseur's Session 3 Auctions Sale - Reminder and Highlights

Even though it feels like the Session 2 auction event has just wrapped up, the third and final session for releasing the Gerry Fortin and Newtown Liberty Seated coinage collections back to the marketplace is approaching rather quickly. Session 3 bidding opens on May 10 and closes one week later on May 19.

As a reminder to the community of the ongoing release of great lots from both collections, following are several highlights.

Gerry Fortin - Session 3 Liberty Seated Dime Collection Highlights

1850-O F-103 NGC MS67 Star 10C - $27,500

1856-S F-101 PCGS MS63+ CAC 10C - $17,500

1861-S F-101 PCGS MS62 CAC 10C - $17,500

1865-S F-101 PCGS MS63 CAC 10C - $17,500

1869-S F-102 PCGS MS67 CAC 10C - $26,000

1885-S F-101 PCGS MS65 CAC 10C - $39,500

Newtown - Session 3 Liberty Seated Half Dollar Collection Highlights

1870 WB-7 PCGS MS65+ CAC 50C - $12,500

1871-CC WB-3 PCGS AU55 CAC 50C - $15,000

1874 Arrows PCGS MS66 CAC 50C - $34,000

1874-CC WB-3 PCGS MS63 CAC 50C - $37,500

1878-CC WB-1 PCGS MS63 CAC 50C - $22,500

1887 PCGS MS67 CAC 50C - $25,000

Wrapping Up The Blog

Little changes here in the GFRC Venice office on a Sunday. Other than our daily health walk, I will be hanging out in the office and processing new consignment shipments. It is doubtful that there will be a new showcase gallery on Monday morning's edition, but we should have something for you on Tuesday.

All eyes will be on the equity market and the precious metal sector come tomorrow morning. Those of us who are focused on gold and silver will have a preview later this evening as trading opens overseas in Shanghai followed by London.

Thank you as always for the visit.

Be well!

April 12, 2025

An AI Generated Daily Blog Edition

The Best Car to Own: Why I'm Buying a Porsche Boxster

and

Early Silver Commemoratives are Back Courtesy of the Evergreen State Collection

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Saturday morning. Thank you, as always for the returning visit.

Today's edition features a reflection of advancing microelectronics and computing technology. Since being both a technologist and a numismatist, (and gold bug), personal time trade-offs are made. Presently, the numismatist and financial market researcher aspects of a life are dominating and leaving little time for delving deep into the world of emerging AI. Sure, AI Copilot is a new go to information interface to help with Daily Blog composing efficiency. However, that is the extent of AI exploration.

Our GFRC Online Auctions cataloger, Len Augsburger, steps into the AI realm with an email that arrived on Thursday. Len fed my old Daily Blog editions into AI and requested that the application prepare a fresh composition. Following is an AI generated Blog for your reading enjoyment. I'm quite impressed to say the least as to the integration of a host of Porsche ownership facts with personalized numismatic commentary.

The Best Car to Own: Why I'm Buying a Porsche Boxster

Let’s drift away from coins this morning—just briefly—and talk about another lifelong passion that brings joy, curiosity, and sometimes a bit of risk: cars. For collectors like us, it’s not just about horsepower or price tags—it’s about the story, the feel, the craftsmanship. After a good stretch of research, test drives, and long thoughts on Maine backroads, I’ve come to a decision: it’s time to buy a Porsche Boxster.

Why the Boxster? Because it strikes the perfect balance. It’s not over the top like a 911 or inaccessible like some exotic that breaks down every other weekend. The Boxster is composed, elegant, and engineered for the kind of pure driving experience that’s increasingly hard to find. Think of it as the automotive equivalent of a well-preserved 1856-S Seated quarter—something that stands the test of time with grace and subtlety.

What really sets the Boxster apart, and what’s drawn me in, is its mid-engine layout. That balanced weight distribution translates to a confidence in corners and a connection to the road that feels almost analog in nature. And as someone who spends most days looking at rim nicks and strike

sharpness under a loupe, I appreciate that kind of precision. Driving a Boxster feels deliberate, much like the joy of uncovering an underappreciated die marriage tucked away in a show case.

Add in the styling—and it's hard to look away. The early Boxsters have a kind of understated European charm, while the newer 987 and 981 generations feel tight and modern without becoming too complicated. I'm leaning toward a 981 with a six-speed manual, ideally in a more traditional color. Yes, I want to drive it, not just admire it. I want to take the top down on a late summer morning, drop a few orders off at the post office, and maybe take the long way home for no good reason.

Now, I know what some of you might be thinking. A Porsche? Isn't that overkill? The answer is no—at least not for me. I've always believed in making room in life for something that brings a spark. Whether it's a rare Seated half that completes a tough year set or a roadster that makes every errand feel like a mini vacation, it's these small indulgences that give our routines color. Besides, after years of dependable Mazda Miata driving, I've earned the upgrade.

Maintenance won't be free, but neither is preserving a 19th-century coin collection. Timing chains, oil changes, tire wear—it's all part of the ownership experience. And much like curating coins, half the joy is in the stewardship. The plan is to find a well-kept example, ideally with documented service history and a prior owner who loved the car, not just used it. That's where the overlap with numismatics really shines—provenance and care matter.

What excites me most, though, is the community. Porsche people are passionate, just like Seated coin collectors. Forums, club drives, weekend meetups—all familiar territory, just on four wheels instead of two sides of silver. I've already been soaking in YouTube videos, Reddit threads, and owner blogs. The anticipation reminds me of when I was first hunting for key-date Seated dimes—there's energy in the search.

So that's where we are: one foot still firmly in numismatics, the other edging toward a garage upgrade. The Porsche Boxster, for me, feels like the right car at the right time. It's the best car to own because it will be more than just a machine—it'll be part of the daily rhythm. A reward for hard work, a reminder to enjoy the ride, and a pretty nice way to get to a coin show now and then. I'll keep you posted.

Emerald Collection Seated Halves are Selling

So far so good concerning the new Emerald Collection Seated halves! Within 12 hours of featuring the these lovely halves in the Daily Blog, five pieces have already been spoken for. That is a 25% sell through rate with hopes for more sales today as the balance are posted to the price list today. The sold lots have been posted to the 30 Day Price List along with a few other offerings that were previously sourced from GFRC and easily reposted.

Early Silver Commemoratives are Back Courtesy of the Evergreen State Collection

Yes, GFRC is not well known for handling early silver commemorative but this lot was just too good to pass up. Clicking on the below image provides access to a higher resolution version. Look for these new offerings to start appearing early next week.

1915-S 50C PCGS AU58 Panama-Pacific
1920 50C PCGS MS66 Maine
1925 50C PCGS MS65 Fort Vancouver
1925-S 50C PCGS MS66 California
1926 50C PCGS MS65 Sesquicentennial
Hudson 50C PCGS MS65 Series: 100
1935 50C PCGS MS66 Connecticut
PCGS SAN DIEGO 50C MS67 1935-S
1936 50C PCGS MS66 Cleveland
1936 50C PCGS MS66+ Gettysburg
1936-S 50C PCGS MS67 Columbia
1937 50C PCGS MS67 Antietam

Wrapping Up The Blog

That about does it for today's Blog edition. Yes, I will be in the office for most of the day posting the balance of the Emerald Collection Liberty Seated half dollar lots along with photographing incoming consignments.

Just three weeks remain, at this point, before the Fortins return back to the Maine homestead. Come Sunday's Blog, we will define the transition schedule for incoming check payments.

Thanks again for the visit.

Be well!

April 11, 2025

Gold at a Record $3225/Oz

and

New Emerald Collection Consignment - AU58s Galore!

Greetings on a mid-April Friday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for returning after our brief holiday with cherished IBM friends.

It is rather amazing that three couples have been able to stay connected since 1978. During September of that year, Gerry, Dan, and Ron all started employment at IBM East Fishkill, NY on the same day and within the same engineering organization. A friendship developed and blossomed to the point that Ron married Diane's college roommate, Donna, who happened to live in nearby New Jersey and become part of the trio of friends. Decades moved along with Diane, Donna, and Patti staying in contact. Sadly, Ron and Donna divorced but Ron found a new soon to be wife, Gina, who fits in well with the group. We started to reconnect about five years ago at Dan and Patti's home in Massachusetts. Then Dan and Patti moved to Fernandino Beach, FL and built a marvelous home on a lagoon. There was a fresh reunion at their home in January followed by this week's get together at our Venice condo on Tuesday through yesterday. There was so much fun that composing a Blog edition was the last thing on my mind. Readers must also realize that Dan and Patti and Ron and Gina are retired and enjoying a relaxed lifestyle. This leaves Gerry and Diane who are still operating GFRC.

Once our guest had departed on Thursday morning, my focus immediately went back to the GFRC business, retrieving a new consignment from the Venice Post Office, and then going to work on today's gallery showcase, the latest offerings from the Emerald Collection. I did manage to get the pricing proposal completed and approved by the consignor following by fast paced image processing. My apology, but there was no time to conduct attributions for the Liberty Seated halves.

Let's move forward with today's headline content....

Gold at a Record $3225/Oz

The past few days have seen extreme equity market volatility due to the Trump tariffs. On Wednesday morning, it was immediately apparent that the Trump-Bessent gambit had backfired. Rather than seeing U.S. Treasury yields fall due to the panic rush out of stocks and into the safety of bond, the 10 Year yield spiked to 4.5%. Some entity had decided to sell Treasuries en masse forcing the yields much higher during a period of U.S. debt refinancing. Trump had no choice but to pause the tariffs, other than China, to avoid further bond market carnage. Equity markets experienced an emotional super rally followed by giving up half the gains yesterday.

So where are we this morning? The 10 Year Treasury yield stands at 4.40% with gold finally seeing substantial demand. As the Blog is being composed, spot gold is trading at $3220 after setting a new record of $3225 during the early morning hours on the London exchange. Again, some entity is dumping Treasury bonds and buying gold as the likely scenario.

Additionally, investors are finally starting to move capital into the gold market with gold ETF seeing sufficient investment inflows to warrant physical gold purchases. This Kitco article sums up the situation.

Growing fears that the U.S. economy will see lower growth and higher inflation have finally pushed investors off the sidelines and into gold in a meaningful way, according to the latest research from the World Gold Council.

While the gold market has seen solid inflows into gold-backed exchange-traded funds since the start of the year, the March flow data from the WGC showed a broad-based increase in all major regions.

According to the report, North American-listed funds represented 61% of total inflows, while European markets accounted for about 22% of demand and Asian markets represented 16% of global inflows.

European demand has been the missing piece, underperforming within the gold market for the last few months compared to other regions. However, the WGC noted that these funds are starting to catch up.

“First quarter flows in Europe of US$4.6bn stood out as the strongest quarter since Q1 2020,” the analysts said in the report.

In total, 92 tonnes of gold, valued at $8.6 billion, flowed into global ETFs last month. Meanwhile, 226 tonnes of gold, valued at $21 billion, flowed into ETFs in the first quarter, marking the second highest quarterly level in dollar terms, only behind the second quarter of 2020.

In a regional breakdown, North American ETFs saw their gold holdings increase by 67.4 tonnes last month. The analysts said that demand continues to be driven by the usual factors, including solid momentum coupled with economic chaos and geopolitical uncertainty.

“Additionally, equity pullbacks, due to growth concerns and market liquidity worries amid ongoing quantitative tightening, further pushed up investor demand for safe-haven assets,” the analysts said.

Meanwhile, European-listed funds saw inflows of 13.7 tonnes. The report said the UK, Switzerland, and Germany all saw an increase in gold holdings.

“Although the Bank of England made no changes to its benchmark rate during its March meeting, a cloudy growth outlook further weighed by US tariff concerns, weak stock market performance, and the gold price surge drove demand higher in the UK,” the analysts said. “Equally, despite a jump in the 10-year German Bund yield in early March amid Germany’s massive spending plan, investors in Europe continue to add gold ETFs to their portfolios as the ECB’s March cut encouraged further easing expectations and US tariff risks loom over the growth outlook.”

Finally, Asia-based funds saw inflows of 9.5 tonnes last month.

“China and Japan dominated demand in March, both likely driven by rocketing gold price performances, which dwarfed other assets in the month, and roaring global trade policy risks,” the analysts said.

Although there is a risk that gold’s rally becomes unsustainable, the WGC said the market is backed by solid momentum.

“The extent and speed of gold’s rally have drawn out comparisons to previous peaks. While there are headwinds that the gold market will naturally face in this environment, our analysis also suggests that current macroeconomic conditions are quite different from prior periods when the gold market reached previous highs,” the analysts said in the report.

“The willingness to hold and reluctance to sell – given current extreme policy uncertainty – could generate real momentum,” they added. “By historical standards, the current rally isn’t particularly large or long. And comparing the current rally to the recent 2011 and 2020 peaks highlights that, relatively speaking, fundamentals look more solid.”

What about silver?

After experiencing a sharp drop during the stock market plunge, silver is slowing recovering value and is quoting at $31.40. The gold/silver ratio now stands at 103 which is one of the highest ratio points on record. Yes, silver is still being viewed as an industrial metal rather than a monetary metal as the reason behind the inflated gold/silver ratio. I suspect that silver will continue to move up and be back to $33/oz by the end of next week.

Bottom line, the "gold bugs" may finally be vindicated as the world economic order appears to be going through an upheaval as the U.S. dollar sinks rapidly. I've been advising Blog readers to consider gold as an investment for some time and hope that you've been listening. On a personal basis, I am adding another four ounces to the physical stash today.

New Emerald Collection Consignment - AU58s Galore!

GFRC is pleased to be showcasing the following Emerald Collection consignment gallery with a host of AU58 graded lots. There are a few First Rights of Refusal that will be honored today but don't let that fact stop you from asking for first shot via emails or text messages. All phone lines are open for your orders!

If my day goes as planned, these lots will begin posting to the price list during the later morning hours. Those with FRoR will be emailed next as a reminder to tender a pass or play decision towards keeping the sales momentum moving forward.

New Emerald Collection Consignment - AU58s Galore!

1879 F-102 PCGS MS67 25C - $5500

1873-CC No Arrows PCGS EF45 50C - $3950

1879 PCGS PR66CAM 10C - $1500

1851-O NGC MS62 50C - $3650

1859-S NGC MS62 50C - $2350

1862-S PCGS AU58 OGH 50C - $2000

1868 NGC PF64CAM 50C - $1950

1876-CC PCGS AU58 50C - $1850

1849-O NGC AU58 50C - $1150

1856 PCGS AU58 50C - $585

1867-S NGC AU58 50C - $900

1870 PCGS AU58 50C - $1000

1871-S PCGS AU58 50C - $925

1874 NGC AU55 50C OGH - $725

1874-S NGC AU58 50C - $1685

1880 PCGS AU53 50C - $1150

1882 NGC AU55 50C - $1150

1885 PCGS AU58 50C - $1850

1887 NGC MS62 50C - $1500

1889 PCGS AU58 50C - $1550

Wrapping Up The Blog

The shipping department is idle today as the equity market volatility has been a distraction for nearly everyone. Coupled that fact with the lack of new posting to the 30 Day Price List resulting in a quiet order period during the week. Let's see in today's showcase gallery restarts the order rate....

Yes, I will be in the office the entire day working the phone, buying more physical gold, and loading today's gallery to the price list.

More consignments have arrived including a very strong, yet inexpensive 26 piece CAC approved type coin lot along with better dates from the Evergreen State early silver commemorative collection.

The time has come to wrap up and jump into the shower before starting a new day. Please check back tomorrow for a really cool Blog edition as composed by AI courtesy of Len Augsburger.

Thank you so much for returning to the Daily Blog after our brief holiday period.

Be well

April 8, 2025

Reflections on Turbulent Times

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Tuesday morning. Thank you for returning for another edition.

I must admit that composing Blog editions on a daily basis necessitates a keen time commitment outside of the early morning 1.5 hours to actually type out each edition. There is little to share today given Monday's extended time in the shipping department followed by preparations for the visit of our IBM friends. Just to complicate matters, the latch on the lanai screen door broke due to strong winds and required a repair. Days are just flying by. I did manage to insource another consignment from the Sheffield Collection along with moving forward with Emerald Collection Liberty Seated half dollar image processing. Unfortunately, the end of the work day arrived without any organized content for today's Blog. Such is life.

Today's headline is entitled Turbulent Times for a reason. Obviously, the volatility in the equity markets is difficult to dismiss if having substantial investments. As the proceeds from the Connoisseur's Session 2 auction sale continue to be realized, the equity market drop appears to be an opportunity for fresh investment. However, as I warned last week, attempting to catch a sharp knife can leave you bloodied. Conversely, Warren Buffets likes to invest when there is blood in the streets. There is a psychological battle between fear and greed playing out on a personal basis and throughout America.

One thing is for certain related to gold and numismatics. Gold and premium rare coins have been a steady asset during this notable equities pullback. Probably one of the reasons is that physical assets are much more difficult to sell during panic times as compared to sitting at home at a brokerage account trading screen and hitting the sell button. Enhanced communications and computer systems have enabled equity market volatility due to the buying and selling ease. Why do I get a sense that the modern day equities market is much like going to a casino?

For giggles, I asked AI Copilot for a definition of the word, "investment". Following is the response. Note that the key point is putting effort in the present to reap rewards in the future.

The term "investment" refers to the act of allocating money, time, or resources into something—such as a project, asset, or business—with the expectation of gaining a positive return or benefit in the future. Investments can range from financial (like stocks, bonds, or real estate) to personal (such as education or skill development). The key idea is putting in effort now to reap rewards later.

Precious metals and rare coins, along with other collectibles, can be excellent investments if held over a long horizon. The sale of my Liberty Seated dime collection is an example as the prices realized are indicative of premium pieces being held for decades.

So where are we with respect to gold and silver this morning? Gold has performed incredibly well during the past week and is trading at $3015 on the London Exchange. Silver, on the other hand, took a spill and is attempting to hold above the $30 mark. The gold/silver ratio stands at an even 100 which is quite bullish for silver from a monetary metals perspective. The recent $4/oz drop is related to silver being viewed as an industrial metal by many investors. Let's not forget that silver has been is a negative supply deficit for the last four years due to solar panel manufacturing requirements which is bullish.

Turning back to gold, I'm not anticipating any upward movement in the near term as there will sector rotations based on appreciation potential. Some investors with paper gold positions (SLV, SGOL) could sell to move monies into discounted stocks like Amazon and Google. Investing is all about "alpha" and beating a standard index. Here is AI Copilot's perspective on "alpha".

In the context of investments, "alpha" refers to the measure of an investment's performance relative to a benchmark, typically a market index. It's a way to gauge how much better (or worse) an investment has performed compared to the market or its expected return.

If an investment has a positive alpha, it means it has outperformed the benchmark, while a negative alpha indicates under performance. Alpha is often used to assess the skill of fund managers and their ability to deliver returns above what could be achieved by simply following the market.

The next few days will be exciting as a number of countries have already signaled an intent to negotiate tariffs. I suspect that China will be the exception given the cultural addiction to "face". Xi will not wish to lose "face" with Trump. Let's see how the next 48 to 72 hours play out.

Wrapping Up The Blog

The last of the Session 2 auction shipping will be accomplished this morning prior to the arrival of our guests come the early afternoon hours.

As a reminder, the GFRC office will be closed on Wednesday. Please feel free to send along purchase emails or other correspondence, but understand that those communications will be responded to early on Thursday morning or later in the day once our guests have departed.

Thanks again for taking the time to visit the Daily Blog.

Be well!

April 7, 2025

A Magnificent 1877-S F-111 Gem Dime!

and

GFRC Maine Transition

Greetings on a Monday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for returning for another edition.

Like many investors, I've been watching how the equity markets will open today. The best tracker of morning market futures that I use is cnn.com/markets.premarkets along with Kitco's website that tracks spot gold and silver prices on a live basis. As of 6:45 AM, I'm feeling a bit relieved as gold has held the $3000/oz level and is trading a tad above $3040. Much more important is silver which has recovered to close to $30.50. The fact that the two monetary metals are holding their ground is quite positive for future appreciation as investors realize the power of holding a portion of the wealth in metals rather than fiat currencies coupled with investments denominated in those currencies. Also positive is the increased demand for 10 Year Treasury bonds as the yield has broken below 4.0%.

Upon starting breakfast in the GFRC office, morning market futures were forecasting another 3.5% drop in equities. That drop has been reduced to less than 2.0% as the blog is being composed. If markets can hold somewhat flat to start the week, then this is a positive signal that panic selling is coming to a close.

Let's shift focus to GFRC and numismatics....

A Magnificent 1877-S F-111 Gem Dime!

First, the Lakeland Collection consignment has been posted to the 30 Day Price List with two initial sales. Also added to the same price list is a recently acquired gem 1877-S dime. The 1877-S date is an enigma given its mintage of 2,340,000 but only 22 approved in all grades at CAC. This new inventory lot is one of three with a CAC green bean at the MS65 grade with only three finer. GFRC has previously handled one of the other MS65 CAC examples where it realized $5400 during the Newtown Liberty Seated Dime auction sale held during January 2023.

1877-S F-111 PCGS MS65 CAC 10C - $4950

Magnificent Gem, Granular Frosted Luster, Vibrant Cartwheels, Rare Die Pairing. GFRC is thrilled to be offering one of the finest 1877-S dimes extant along with being a rare R5 die pairing per my research as published in the Liberty Seated Dime die variety online reference. This is a magnificent

gem with granular frosted luster and vibrant cartwheels. A speckled natural gray patina overlays the obverse while the reverse is a lighter uniform gray with gold and rose shades appearing under angled lighting. The surfaces are meticulously preserved too! Now let's move on to the importance of this die pairing in terms of rarity. The F-111 variety is the last of the three different reverse die pairings (F-109, F-110, F-111) with Obverse 7. Reverse C, which was previously paired with the F-103 obverse, shows die wear and erosion at the denticles. There is considerable weakness in the lower left ribbon end and wreath leaves. The reverse die may have been polished after the F-103 die pairing. This is only the fourth F-111 example handled by GFRC with the next finest being a PCGS MS62 CAC example sold during May 2018. Clearly, the finest known F-111 extant. CAC has approved only 22 examples in all grades with three finer. The estimate CAC market value is currently $4900 which recognizes the 1877-S date rarity in full gem. An important offering that belongs in one of the finest Seated dime collections being assembled. Housed in PCGS Gen 6.1 (2020-2025) holder with CAC approval.

GFRC Maine Transition

April is moving along quickly with so much that is taking place. Honestly, I can't imagine living life otherwise.

The Maine GFRC office transition is not far away and probably best to take a first crack at a schedule. The Fortins have been considering returning to Maine during the final weekend in April or the first weekend in May. Complicating the return date is the delivery timing of the 718 Boxster at the Sarasota Porsche dealership and scheduling an automotive transport for moving the car to Maine. We wish to be present for the unveiling ceremony followed by a first drive and buy off process. Therefore, it makes sense to buy as much time as possible by returning to Maine during the first weekend in May which is May 3-4. It is not possible to delay the return further as we are running up against long standing doctors and dentist appointments.

If this is the case, then the prior week of April 26 through May 1 becomes the blackout period for mailing payments to GFRC. A quick check of the calendar indicates that we have three weeks remaining for regular price list sales and consignment shipments into the Venice, Florida office.

A detailed schedule will be forthcoming come next Monday.

GFRC Office Slowdown This Week

As mentioned previously, the Fortins are hosting our long time IBM friends here in Venice starting on Tuesday afternoon and wrapping up by midday on Thursday. The office will be definitely closed on Wednesday April 9 following by catching up on orders and other GFRC business starting on Thursday afternoon. I'm uncertain if there will be Daily Blog editions on Wednesday or Thursday, and frankly I could use a break from preparing content for two days.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Our Monday morning will be dominated by a substantial amount of time in the shipping department. Many of the Session 2 auction lots will be heading into the USPS system today.

To ensure that every client has a USPS tracking number for their shipments, I will be manually sending out emails with this information. What I previously thought was the fix on the new Enhanced USPS Click n' Ship website might not be the solution for ensuring that USPS does its job of issuing tracking number emails to addressees. Yes, this is quite frustrating but again, I will take responsibility and will issue those tracking number emails myself.

Otherwise, the emphasis shifts to a 20 piece Liberty Seated half dollar lot from the Emerald Collection during the afternoon hours. There are a fair number of First Rights of Refusals on the books for these new offerings and best to move forward quickly.

During the coming few days, I am expecting at least three consignments to arrive to the office. Each will be announced upon their arrival.

That is about it for a Monday morning in terms of GFRC ramblings. We appreciate the ongoing readership and patronage.

Be well!

April 6, 2025

GFRC-Lite Baltimore Show Report and a Fire Drill

and

A New Lakeland Collection Release to Consider

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a quiet Sunday morning. The month of April is rapidly moving along, isn't it? Thank you so much for the visit.

Today's breakfast was a tad later than normal as I overslept a bit with respect to preparing another Daily Blog edition. Can you image oversleeping on a Sunday morning? Anyways, breakfast always take place in the GFRC office along with viewing YouTube videos concerning world news and/or global financial market discussions. This morning's treat was an interview of Michael Oliver from Momentum Structural Analysis. I've been following Michael Oliver closely as his equity market and precious metal forecasts are based on momentum charting along with analysis of current trends with respect to prior market cycles. So far, Oliver has been quite accurate on the equity markets topping out in February and breaking down prior to the tariff induced sell off as witnessed on Thursday and Friday.

Oliver's key message is that investors are making a significant mistake with silver. During the Thursday and Friday market panic, silver was treated no different than an industrial commodity and dropped consistent with copper and crude oil. However, Michael reminds us that silver is primarily a monetary metal and should be behaving similar to gold. So far, gold has shined with only a 3% drop from its all time high during the market panic. His belief is that silver may drop another dollar before rebounding back over $32/oz. He is also quite bullish on gold to move higher in the coming months.

His key message was to watch the banking sector which appears to be in trouble. If bank stocks continue to unwind, the Federal Reserve will need to step in with another round of QE and lowering interest rates. If the Federal Reserve does follow this path, then the money supply is again increased leading to U.S. dollar devaluation with a higher reciprocal move in gold and silver. I'm taking Michael Oliver seriously at this point based on his demonstrated market calls that are being substantiated with sound technical analysis.

Blog readers well recognize how I've been advocating for gold ownership. I believe that current market events substantiate that viewpoint.

GFRC-Lite Baltimore Show Report and a Fire Drill

Rich Hundertmark sent along a timely GFRC-Lite Baltimore show report along with sharing a fire drill with respect to the Midland, SC coin show. Please read on...

Hi Gerry,

It's certainly been an interesting 2 weeks for Lite starting with the trek to the Baltimore Whitman show.

As I was walking this show as a dealer for the 1st time, I chose to bring a select inventory that would be tailored to dealer sales. I settled on bringing a good portion of Lite's raw seated inventory and a box of 20 that I thought priced attractively enough to appeal to dealers. Overall, I did well with the raw coins, the Seated Half Dollars led the way, however the certified box only resulted in a few sales. This wasn't unexpected as Lite's certified coins are priced higher than Greysheet, thus limiting dealer sales. I also must admit that I wasn't keen on walking the bourse with a large inventory, I hadn't done this before at a large show and was risk averse in this situation

The good news was that this was a quick trip with a Wednesday afternoon arrival and early Friday morning departure that allowed me to get back home at a reasonable hour,

While walking the bourse, (which looked to have just decent floor traffic on Thursday, definitely no buzz), I located a lovely 1806 Large 6 with stems half cent graded AU58 PCGS CAC for my 19th century type collection. CAC stickered early copper is tough to locate and it's worth the hunt to locate these premium examples.

Now for the Fire drill. Monday evening, I got a surprise call from the Midlands Show bourse chairman who advised me that the upcoming (in 4 days) Columbia, SC April 4,5 Friday - Saturday show was canceled due to a scheduling error between the club and the hosting arena venue, Apparently the venue switched event booking software and dates got jumbled. The bourse chairman "fell on his sword" for not following up with the venue in advance to confirm the date. I didn't give him too much grief as my mind went directly to damage control mode,

The first thing I did was cancel my hotel reservation. The Hilton reservation system would not allow me to make the change, so I immediately called the hotel directly and the rep was able to cancel my reservation - thank you!

Next, I wanted to see if it was at all possible to add a substitute event. At the FUN show I talked with the Cape Fear, NC club and discussed the potential for Lite attending at some point. I called the bourse chairman and was able to get a table. The show is smaller, 30 tables, but just a 2-hr. drive and the one-night hotel stay was low priced. This show is a bi-annual event, in May and December, and if I do decently, I will strongly consider attending again.

As this is a smaller show, I will bring a selection of coins concentrated in the $50- $250 range and maybe more Morgans and 20th century material than normal. All in all, I think I recovered well from an unexpected situation, After the Cape Fear show I look forward to the large Annual Raleigh Club June show that's a 4-day event at the state fairgrounds with 150+ dealers. This show kicks off my summer schedule which also includes Annandale, Va, in July and a trip to the August summer ANA in OKC, let's see..., coins ??, cowgirls??, prime beef??? - I'm in!!

In the next few weeks, I'll be steadily adding inventory to the website. I'm also meeting with my webmaster next week with a few gfrclite.com changes and improvements to be discussed.

Wishing all the blogamaniacs continued collecting success!

Rich

A New Lakeland Collection Release to Consider

The mother and son collecting team is back again with another Civil War centric consignment release for your consideration. I hope that you will carefully examine each of their new offerings for potential purchase. Today's showcase gallery opens with three San Francisco half dimes and a Seated half dollar. The 1864 Philadelphia struck Seated quarter is also quite attractive. Capped Bust half dollar fans should note the 1830 O-112 die variety that carries an R4+ rarity rating. The attribution is easily accomplished via a boldly doubled LIBERTY on th headband.

Civil War Era Offerings Per the Lakeland Collection

1864-S PCGS MS61 H10C - $1475

1864-S NGC AU58 H10C - $1000

1865-S PCGS AU58 H10C - $1300

1865-S WB-1 PCGS AU55 50C - $1750

1864 NGC EF45 25C - $850

1830 O-112 R4+ NGC AU55 50C - $850

1836 O-101 NGC AU53 50C - $360

1861-S WB-4 PCGS EF40 50C - $475

1862 PCGS EF40 50C - $500

Wrapping Up The Blog

Consignment proposals continue to arrive at a steady pace. The Sheffield Collection has shipped another Liberty Seated dime consignment that should arrive on Monday. The Evergreen State Collection is shipping the higher priced dates/grades from a nearly complete United States early silver commemoratives set with the balance heading to GFRC-Lite. Finally, another 25 piece consignment of assorted type coins should arrive by mid-week.

As for today, I will be working in the GFRC office other than a quick drive to Home Depot to replace that leaky propane tank in time for the arrival of our IBM friends on Tuesday.

Thank you, as always, for stopping by at the Daily Blog.

Be well!

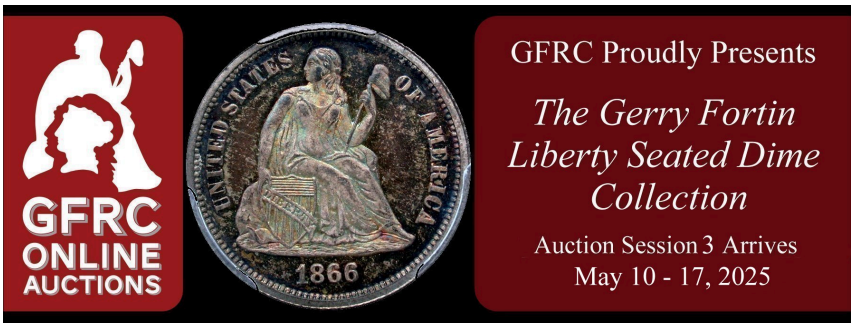
April 5, 2025

Gerry's 718 Boxster is Heading to the U.S.

GFRC Business Remains Robust

and

GFRC Office is Closed on April 9th



Greetings on a Saturday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for the visit.

Where do we start with today's edition? Yes, equity markets are in a state of fear and chaos. The past 48 hours have demonstrated how fear is an incredibly powerful emotion. Equity markets take several years to climb in a structured manner but can be demolished in the matter of hours when panic sets in. Such was the case on Friday as market selling was driven more by fear and panic rather than logic. After having experience multiple market crashes in a lifetime (the wisdom that comes with age), the tariff induced crash is no different than the Covid event. Global supply chains collapsed due to countries attempting to quarantine themselves from the virus. The current tariff induced crash does not involve a global health issue, thank goodness. Rather, there is fear on how the global supply chains will be modified in the near term to deal with the tariffs. Demand for certain products could wane as is the case for solar panels produced in China and India leading to silver prices being hit hard. Throughout the "tariff crash", gold has performed quite well as a vehicle for preserving wealth.

What is Trump's master plan or goals? The most obvious is to open markets for U.S. goods with our trading partners. The removal of trade barriers will end up being negotiated under duress rather than taking years of discussion. However, I believe there is a more strategic issue at play, namely China's rapid military buildup. The United States runs a massive trade deficit with China. During 2024, the deficit was nearly S300 billion. Coincidently, China's annual military spending for 2024 was approximately $300 billion. Do you see the relationship? The U.S. trade deficit is essentially funding China's military expansion. There are two paths for dealing with Chinese expansionism. One is to spend more on U.S. military technology to counter Chinese expansionism. The other is to starve China of excess trade surpluses. Unfortunately, the first path of military technology development is very expensive with the results ultimately being stolen by covert means. At $850 billion per year, the expansion of U.S. military spending to counter China is unsustainable given our annual budget deficits and the ongoing trade deficits with major trade partners. This commentary is just food for contemplation as to the probable long term goal of the current tariff "war".

Let's move on to other topics...

Friday brought a visit to Sarasota Porsche along with restocking the Fortin bar, in anticipation of our IBM friends get together starting on Tuesday afternoon.

The Sarasota Porsche visit was an attempt to secure a handle on when the 718 Boxster might be ready for pickup as our Maine transition is quickly approaching. Secondly, I hoped to secure an understanding on Porsche's tariff pricing policy concerning cars being transported to the United States after the April 2 deadline.

The good news is that the 718 Boxster has been loaded on a transport ship as of April 4 per our sales person's internal Porsche tracking system. This is great news with a possibility that the car might be into the Sarasota dealership before the end of the month. On the tariff topic, Josh, our sales ambassador, does not have any news from Porsche on how the 25% tariff will be handled. He mentioned that Ferrari has made an announcement on the matter with a 10% price increase. To validate what I was told, here is AI Copilot's response to the question.

Ferrari has announced price adjustments in response to the U.S. 25% import tariffs on imported vehicles. Starting April 2, 2025, Ferrari plans to increase prices by up to 10% on certain models. However, models like the 296, SF90, and Roma will not see price hikes, regardless of their import date. Cars imported before April 2 will also maintain their original pricing.

For example, the Purosangue SUV and 12Cilindri models are expected to see significant price increases, potentially adding tens of thousands of dollars to their cost. Ferrari has stated that it will absorb some of the additional costs for specific models while passing on a portion to customers.

This move reflects Ferrari's strategy to navigate the impact of tariffs while maintaining its competitive position in the U.S. luxury car market.

Josh did confirm that Porsche has announced that the Boxster and Cayman platforms will be converted to EVs come the 2026 model year. Here is my check of this information via AI Copilot.

Porsche has confirmed that the 718 Boxster and Cayman will transition to an all-electric platform for the 2026 model year. These electric sports cars will be built on the Premium Platform Electric (PPE), which is shared with other models like the Macan EV.

The electric versions are expected to maintain Porsche's signature performance, with base models producing at least 300 horsepower and high-performance variants exceeding 400 horsepower. Additionally, they will feature advanced battery technology, offering a range of approximately 288-315 miles on a single charge.

Bottom line, the decision to build a 2025 718 Boxster GTS 4.0 during the final year of gas powered motoring appears to have been wise from a depreciation perspective as there should be long term demand for the vehicle by Porsche enthusiasts.

GFRC Business Remains Robust

Regardless of the financial turmoil in the equity markets, GFRC business continues to remain robust. April retail sales are ahead of forecast while consignment proposals are appearing on a near daily basis. There is something to be said about pricing stability for a physical asset like quality numismatic items.

GFRC Office is Closed on April 9th

In just a few days, our long time IBM friends will be spending several days in Venice as our second reunion of the year arrives.

There will be shipping on Tuesday morning, afterwards the office will be closed through April 9th. Emailed orders and other correspondence will be responded to later in the day on April 10th. It is not often that I take a brief vacation but this reunion is very special and warrants shutting down the cellphone and enjoying the moment.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings a long office day with morning shipping and more image processing to enable a Lakeland Collection showcase gallery for Sunday's Blog edition. A pricing proposal has already been approved. The Emerald Collection Liberty Seated halves, as illustrated on April 2, were photographed yesterday along with being loaded into the COIN system.

As for new consignment proposals, I am entertaining two volume consignments, both from long time clients. More information will be forthcoming as the ship dates are finalized.

So ends another Blog edition. We certainly appreciate the ongoing readership and support for the GFRC business.

Be well!

April 4, 2025

Shifting Attention to the Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale

Missing USPS Tracking Emails Issue Resolved

and

Evergreen State Collection Releases to Consider

Greetings and welcome to a thank goodness it is a Friday edition of the Daily Blog. It has been quite the week. Thank you so much for stopping by.

Between running solo for a few days after the Session 2 auction sale close, and now the precipitous drop of silver and equities, life is certainly not boring. As much as the GFRC business consumes me, there is a positive aspect to staying fully engaged with clients and fellow numismatic friends. With the financial markets and news media focused on Trump's tariffs, one's personal anxiety level could be maxed out. Instead, we continue to chug away in the office and working through a new consignment wave.

I'm certain that every Blog reader has their opinions on Trump's tariffs and we will not go down that rabbit hole today. Last evening, while enjoying a happy hour tequila pour, I sat quietly in the lanai and contemplated what the true end game is for the newly announced tariffs. If one asks "why" enough times, then the ultimate goal might become apparent. We will discuss this personal conclusion in another Blog edition.

Let's focus on numismatics...

Shifting Attention to the Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale

Now that the Session 2 Auction Sale is in the GFRC history books, attention is already shifting to the final Session 3 event that arrives on May 10th. The middle of May is not that far away and arrives promptly after the GFRC Florida to Maine transition is completed.

To remind everyone of the next auction sale, the Session 3 auction banners were prepared on Thursday and will be cohabiting with the Daily Blog headlines until May 18 or so. At that point, the sale of the Gerry Fortin and Newtown Liberty Seated coinage collections will have been completed with unsold lots being marketed through the balance of 2025.

There are some fantastic lots in the Session 3 sale to consider. Within my Seated Dime collection, there are the 1856-S PCGS MS63+ CAC, 1861-S PCGS MS62 CAC, 1865-S PCGS MS63 CAC, 1866 PCGS MS66 CAC (New England Museum), and 1869-S PCGS MS67 CAC (Finest Known) dimes to consider. The Newtown Seated Half Dollar Collection also does not disappoint with an incredibly beautiful 1870 PCGS MS65+ CAC half that has been selected as the banner plate coin. Carson City fans will be intrigued with the 1871-CC PCGS AU55 CAC, 1872-CC PCGS AU55 CAC, 1872-S PCGS MS65 CAC, 1874 PCGS MS66 CAC, and 1874-CC PCGS MS63 CAC Seated halves.

Clicking on the above auction banners will take you directly to the Session 3 auction lots.

Missing USPS Tracking Emails Issue Resolved

Many customers have been reporting the lack of USPS tracking number notifications for the recent auction shipments. As a result of the feedback, I went back into the new Enhanced USPS shipping system to investigate. Sure enough, the problem was located and I need to go back to button selection school. USPS allows shippers to customize tracking notifications by addressee. In our case, USPS was auto filling the notification options for every new addressee. However, there are options for email or text message notifications that must be selected to enable the notifications. With this finding, the tracking number email issue will be resolved starting today.

Evergreen State Collection Releases to Consider

Yesterday's focus on new consignments results in six new offerings to consider this morning courtesy of the Evergreen State Collection. Liberty Seated dimes and Capped Bust halves are today's theme as illustrated next. Moving along duplicates becomes that more important as the Connoisseur's Session 3 Auction Sale requires additional numismatic capital to fund new purchases.

The 1838 and 1839 dimes were sold into the Evergreen State Collection with the prior sales records being available in the Sales Archive. The 1853 No Arrows offering is a tough date in any grade while the 1853 Arrows dime is an unquestionable gem and perfect for type collectors. We wrap up with two mighty fine PCGS AU58 CAC Capped Bust halves, the perfect grade level for those building an advanced date set.

Evergreen State Collection Releases to Consider

1838 Large Stars F-104 PCGS MS63 10C - $995

1839 F-106c NGC MS63 10C - $725

1853 No Arrows PCGS AU55 10C - $1250

1853 Arrows PCGS MS66 CAC 10C - $3150

1825 O-108 R3 PCGS AU58 CAC 50C - $1150

1833 O-105 PCGS AU58 CAC 50C - $985

Wrapping Up The Blog

There will be no shipping today as my focus is on a combination of personal errands and continuing to work through a new consignment round.

How I miss owning my own outdoor grill propane tank here in Venice as compared to Maine. Here is Venice, we must swap tanks at Home Depot or 7/11 with a hit or miss adventure for leaky tank valves. Sometimes I will secure a robust valve and other times, the valve will leak badly. The most recent swap resulted in a blatantly leaky valve with the tank lasting less than a month. Every time I grill, I can smell some gas escaping from the open valve. Therefore, I'm off again to Home Depot today for another swap and hoping that we secure a properly functioning valve.

The Fortin bar also needs to be restocked as we are hosting a second reunion with our IBM friend come next week. Yes, Dan, Patti, Ron, and Gina are traveling to Venice for a few days of fun and old time friendship. Diane is preparing the condo and working through the event plans. Like I said in the opening preamble, there is never a dull moment here in Venice.

To conclude, I will be in an out of the GFRC office today running errands and loading today's showcase gallery to the price list.

Oh, for Liberty Seated dime fans, I've just purchased an incredibly original 1877-S F-111 PCGS MS65 CAC Seated dime with only three finer. This new purchase will be photography today.

Thanks again for the visit.

Be well!

April 3, 2025

Catching a Falling Knife?

and

GFRC Office Returns to Normalcy

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Thursday morning. Thank you so much for continuing to support our online numismatic mom and pop business.

Between you and me, Venice high temperatures are already reaching the point where I'm ready to pack up and head back to the Maine homestead. Today and Friday's high temperature will be 90F and only dropping into the mid 80s during the weekend. This Yankee just does not do well with these types of high temperatures. Back in Maine, typical wet spring weather is the rule with highs in the low 50s. How I look forward to heading down to our little pond once being back home in less than a month's time.

Here we are on a post United States reciprocal tariff morning watching the financial market repercussions. So far, major U.S. equity market futures are down 3-4% on the uncertainties. Gold is hanging tough at at $3100/oz while silver is taking it on the chin with a drop to $32.30 as the Blog is composed. Extreme financial market volatility will be the rule today. My advice is to let this volatility settle out before pumping fresh capital into the markets. There is an old saying that attempting to "catch a falling knife" is a risky proposition. Let's hear AI Copilot's perspective when asked about the term "catching a falling knife".

In investing, "catching a falling knife" refers to the risky strategy of buying a stock or asset that is experiencing a sharp and rapid decline, hoping to profit from a potential rebound before the price continues to fall. Here's a more detailed explanation:

The Situation: A "falling knife" describes a stock or asset whose price is plummeting quickly, often due to negative news, poor performance, or market sentiment.

The Strategy: "Catching a falling knife" involves buying the asset at its low point, anticipating that the price will soon stop falling and start to rise.

The Risk: This strategy is considered high-risk because the price could continue to fall, leading to significant losses for the investor.

Why it's risky: Continued downward momentum: The asset may continue to fall, even if there's a temporary reprieve, making it difficult to identify the bottom.

Market psychology: Fear and panic selling can cause prices to drop rapidly, and it's difficult to predict when this downward trend will end.

Underlying problems: The sharp decline could indicate fundamental problems with the company or asset, which may not be resolved quickly.

Alternatives: Instead of "catching a falling knife," investors may consider waiting for the price to stabilize or for more positive news before investing.

There is little to add to what has been communicated by AI Copilot. The best thing to do is to go on with life while the financial markets experience a swoon due to investor panic. The markets will readjust once the panic stage of human emotions subsides.

There is something to be said for having built a personal gold stash including adding seven ounces this week as several Session 2 auction purchases were paid in gold. Gold may also drop today as some individuals will need to sell to cover losses brought on by margin calls but the dip will be temporary.

GFRC Office Returns to Normalcy

The GFRC office recovery from the Connoisseur's Session 2 Auction Sale is about complete with a single extended payment term document needing to be solidified. Otherwise, the Gerry Fortin and Newtown Seated dime and half dollar lots have been kitted in their shipping packages or have moved into the auction layaway box for safe keeping. Now the focus shifts to the Session 3 auction event that begins on May 10. One of today's deliverables is fabricating the new Session 3 auction banners that will take residency right below the Daily Blog headlines.

Wednesday brought three incoming consignment shipments which is great news. There are presently 35 or so fresh coins waiting to be photographed and loaded into the COIN system for subsequent processing. Liberty Seated and Capped Bust coinage dominate the consignment shipments for those with curious minds.

Since Monday, GFRC has shipped nearly 30 packages composed of both regular retail orders and Session 2 auction ship aheads. I'm inclined to give the shipping department the day off today and Friday as the focus returns back to consignment processing towards reloading the 30 Day Price List with a host of great new offerings.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today sees your blogger working in the Venice office with strong air conditioning. There are plenty of newly consigned coins to keep me out of trouble through 5:00 PM happy hour.

For those that enjoy purchasing raw Liberty Seated dime from my reference collection, I will commit to adding 4-5 of those pieces to the price list by mid-afternoon. This will spark some attention by the die hard Seated dime collectors.

At this point, there is little else to ramble about. I'm still watching Porsche 718 Boxster and Cayman videos dreaming of the day when our newly built GTS 4.0 finds its way to the Sarasota Porsche dealership. Who knows when that will be given the newly announced tariffs. Being anxious about this situation is unwise, as remaining calm and letting geopolitics and global finance work themselves out is best. I still have the 1993 Miata sitting in Maine as an alternative for some adult driving fun come late April and will certainly appreciate that car more than in the past.

Thank you again for returning to another rambling edition of the Blog.

Be well!

April 2, 2025

Making Progress with Session 2 Auction Admin

GFRC Retail Sales are Robust

and

Emerald Liberty Seated Half Dollar Consignment Arrives

Greetings on an early April 2025 Wednesday morning and welcome to the Daily Blog. Thank you for sharing your precious time with us.

The good news is that Diane is back home in Venice. The bad news was her late flight back to Ft. Myers and returning to Venice close to midnight. My body clock did not fathom the late hour to bed, rather I was wide awake at 4:30 AM towards starting another day. Maybe a short early afternoon nap will be in order.

Excellent progress is being made with the post Connoisseur's Session 2 auction admin. Monday and Tuesday brought heavy shipping along with working through the extended payments for those winning bidders that requested such consideration. There are a few more auction invoices to rewrite today, but overall, I'm pleased with the progress as we should be wrapped up by Thursday.

Some winning auction bidders might be wondering why I've asked for confirmation of their ship to addresses. The explanation is straightforward and takes us back to the recent forced USPS Click n' Ship migration to an "enhanced" platform. I did my best to move the GFRC client address database from the old to new system and initially, it appeared to be a successful transfer. However, there have been too many cases of missing addresses recently in the new database. This fact is on top of a number of clients indicating that they are not receiving their usual shipments tracking number emails. Believe me, during the generation of shipping labels, I am validating that the customer's email address has been provided to USPS for issuing tracking information. However, complaints of missing tracking information continues to be reported. One would think that a massive enterprise such as USPS would be able to develop robust shipping applications.

GFRC Retail Sales are Robust

Slowing down the post Session 2 auction admin has been a great problem to have. GFRC has noted robust demand for our regular retail price list offerings with Liberty Seated coinage dominating the purchases. Most important is a number of newer collectors who are becoming more aggressive with their set building purchases. I've been doing my best to balance the retail service demands while still getting the auction invoicing and initial ship aheads being executed on a prompt basis.

One particularly successful product line has been Liberty Seated dimes with both the raw Gerry Fortin reference collection pieces selling briskly along with higher grade specimens. It has become apparent that several serious collectors having made this series a collecting objective. Liberty Seated quarter and half dollar sales are presently limited by quality inventory. Now is the time to consign Seated coinage as the demand is robust.

Feedback for the Spring Baltimore Show

Out of curiosity, I've been checking in with both dealer and collector friends on their perspective of the Spring 2025 Whitman Baltimore show. The feedback consensus is two-fold and a matter of perspective.

Several dealer contacts reports a vigorous show with respect to dealer to dealer business levels. Tuesday afternoon saw a host of dealers mulling about the Baltimore convention center's third floor area in search of coins to buy. This buying demand extended into Wednesday, the traditional day that most dealer wholesale business is accomplished in the trading rooms.

The opposite was reported for retail traffic once the bourse opened on Thursday for early bids at 10:00 and for the general public at noon time. The bourse never achieved a "buzz" which is a subjective benchmark for an active show. I received feedback that some dealers started closing up at Friday noon time.

Overall, it appears that the ongoing migration of the numismatic hobby to online sales continues. Larger shows outside of FUN and ANA events are seeing reduced attendance. Noteworthy is the closure of the Long Beach show for this exact reason. If collectors do not flock to large bourse events, then dealers will rethink the time and expenses of a booth setup. Rather, some dealers are now just working their dealer to dealer relationships for sourcing new inventory.

Emerald Liberty Seated Half Dollar Consignment Arrives

The Emerald Collection was an active bidder in the just completed Session 2 auction sale and spent well into the mid-five figures for his targeted Seated half dollar lots. Consequently, our client has released a host of accumulated duplicates which arrived to the office on Tuesday. Following is a preview of that wide ranging consignment. Please note that the 1885 PCGS AU58 half is evenly toned and does not have a "banded" toning pattern as illustrated. This band is lighting reflections from my makeshift photography bench.

Clicking on the image will facilitate access to a higher resolution version for curious minds.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Let's see, we've not discussed precious metal and the Porsche 718 Boxster in today's edition. The 718 Boxster continues to be stranded at the Emden Port and waiting for a transport vessel to the U.S. How Trump's tariffs will play into that delivery is anyone's guess at the moment. All I know is that the Fortins have a signed contract with a fixed purchase price and a non-refundable deposit. The completed vehicle also has its own VIN number.

Spot gold is coasting at $3135/oz during London trading. Silver is trying to hold $34/oz but I suspect that there are forces in the precious metal space that are continuing to manipulate the price. From recent YouTube viewing, I've heard that the LBMA only has about five months of physical silver (its operating float for futures contracts) left in the vaults before physical delivery demands have exhausted the supply. It will take time, but silver is going higher with my price target being $40.

Otherwise, today is yet another office day with heavy morning shipping and finalizing the Session 2 extended payment terms during the afternoon hours.

Yes, consignments are being solicited if you are so inclined as GFRC needs Liberty Seated coins across all denominations. U.S. gold also continues to be popular.

Thanks again for taking the time to visit with us at the Daily Blog.

Be well!

April 1, 2025

April Fool's Day Arrives

but

Taking a Pass on a Blog Edition

Greetings on April Fool's Day 2025 and welcome to the Daily Blog.

As the headline indicates, I'm taking a pass on composing today's edition. The explanation is straightforward.... The GFRC office is overwhelmed with post Session 2 auction admin workload along with a brisk retail order rate. Holding down the fort on my own is fully consuming leaving no time to just sit at the laptop to ramble about spontaneous topics. To maintain our well known service levels and also secure some mandatory exercise, something has to give.

I expect the present situation to stabilize by Thursday.

Thank you for checking in and be well.

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